Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-076
Thursday
19 April 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-076 *19 April 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd al-Rahman 'Isa Criticizes Abu-Nidal Group *[Algiers VOP]* 1
PLO's Milhim Interviewed on Regional Ties *[Amman AL-RA'Y 18 Apr]* 1
Al-Hasan on U.S. Role, Israeli, PLO Affairs *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 12 Apr]* 4
'Arafat on Resistance to 'Zionist Colonization' *[APS]* 8
Yasir 'Arafat Meets With Tunisia's Khelil *[Tunis Radio]* 8
Swedish Foreign Minister Meets 'Arafat in Tunis *[Stockholm International]* 9
PLO Chief Receives Cable From Al-Qadhdhafi *[Baghdad VOP]* 9
PLO Central Committee on 'Arafat's Recent Visits *[KUNA]* 9
PLO Calls for Islamic, Christian, Jewish Meeting *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 12 Apr]* 9
Envoy to Jordan on Immigration, Coordination *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 16 Apr]* 10
UN, Pope Called on To Stop 'Zionist Violations' *[Baghdad VOP]* 10
Businessmen To Establish Development Group *[Baghdad VOP]* 10
U.S. 'Major Enemy' of Palestinians, Arabs *[Baghdad VOP]* 11
Faruq Qaddumi on Israeli Government Crisis *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 12 Apr]* 12
Al-Surani on Conditions for Dealing With Israel *[Al-Damman AL-YAWN 10 Apr]* 12
Fatah's Bal'awi Calls for International Conference *[Baghdad VOP]* 13
Comment on Abu-Sharif News Conference in Helsinki *[Helsinki International]* 13
Radio Urges Intifadah Confontation To Escalate *[Baghdad VOP]* 13
PNC Speaker, Delegation Leave for Baghdad *[AL-DUSTUR 17 Apr]* 14

South Asian Regional Affairs

Gujral To Meet Pakistani Counterpart on Kashmir *[AFP]* 14
More on Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Interior Ministry: Protest Must Respect Law *[Algiers Radio]* 15
FLN Political Bureau Discusses Situation *[APA]* 15
FLN's Abdelhamid Mehri on Mosques, Rallies *[Algiers TV]* 15
Appeals Made To Cancel 20 Apr Marches *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Parties Call for Dialogue, Warn Against Threats *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Parties Share Concern Toward Political Rallies *[Algiers Radio]* 16
'Sharp Conflict' among Trade Union Leaders *[Algiers Radio]* 16

Egypt

'Skirmishes' at Israeli Border; No Casualties *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
'Abd-al-Majid on Area Disarmament, Regional Ties *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Mubarak: Decree on Ambassadorial Appointments *[MENA]* 17
Communications Minister Comments on Satellite *[MENA]* 18
Paper Says U.S. Prefers Limited USSR Role *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Apr]* 18

Libya

Embassy in Brussels Denies LE MONDE Reports *[Brussels Radio]* 18

Sudan

Ambassador to London on Recent Cabinet Reshuffle *[BBC]* 18
Sudan Rejects IMF Pressure on Economic Policies *[BBC]* 19

Western Sahara

Polisario's Bashir Sayed Grants Interviews *[Madrid DIARIO 16 3 Apr]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Central Bank Governor on Deficit, Banks' Merger *[AL-ANBA' 14 Apr]* 21

Qatar

Amir Extends Advisory Council's Term by 4 Years *[WAKH]* 21

United Arab Emirates

Culture Minister Declares UAE Support for Iraq *[XINHUA]* 21

Yemen Arab Republic

Muslim 'Fundamentalist' Declares 'War' on Unity *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 22

IRAQ

Saddam Comments on Binary Chemicals, Missiles *[INA]* 23
Britain Used Spy Incident To 'Incite' Opinion *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Apr]* 25
Ramadan, Klibi Address Arab Union on 'Campaign' *[INA]* 25

ISRAEL

Reportage on Alleged Egyptian Border Skirmish 30
Egypt Said Taking 'Stern View' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
IDF Knows 'Nothing' of Incident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
No Complaints to Cairo Embassy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
All Planes Return Safely After Raid in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Peres Said Willing To Join Unity Government *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
SHAS Said To Support Unity Government *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
Parties Reject Coalition With 'Extortionists' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Injunction Issued Against 19 Apr Likud Convention *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Court Allows Likud Conference; More Debate Due *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Ministry Spokesman Urges U.S. 'Nonintervention' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Likud Takes 'Serious View' of U.S. Remarks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Settlement Adviser on Current, Future Plans *[HA'ARETZ 19 Apr]* 32
Church Leaders Ask Shamir To Evacuate Settlers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Ambassador to Poland Presents Credentials *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Sicarii Group Threatens 2 Ultraorthodox Leaders *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 18 Apr]* 33
HA'OLAM HAZE Updates Fatality Toll *[18 Apr]* 33
West Bank Resident Injured; Curfews Imposed *[Jersusalem Radio]* 33
Khan Yunus Youth Killed; School Closed in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33

JORDAN

Further Reportage on 'Arafat's Visit to Kingdom 34
Badran, 'Arafat Cochair Meeting *[Amman TV]* 34
'Arafat Commends Talks *[Amman TV]* 34
Badran, 'Arafat Discuss Region *[Amman Radio]* 34
Departs; Joint Talks Reported *[Amman Radio]* 34
King Husayn Meets JCP Leadership 15 Apr *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Apr]* 35

LEBANON

Islamic Jihad To Release U.S. Hostage *[AFP]* 36
Further on Islamic Jihad Statement *[AFP]* 36
Radio Reports Statement on Hostages *[Voice of National Resistance]* 36
Release Expected 20 April *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
Islamic Jihad To Send Message to Bush *[AFP]* 36
Soviet Ambassador Meets With Al-Huss *[Beirut Radio]* 37
'Awn Officer Negotiating Fuel Deal With Junblatt *[RFL]* 37
Foreign Ministry, Amal on Shab'a Farms *[Beirut Radio]* 37
First Installment of Kuwaiti Aid Arrives 18 Apr *[VOM]* 37
Israeli Warplanes Raid Al-Na'imah Hills 19 Apr *[Beirut Radio]* 38
RFL on Israeli Raid Al-Na'imah *[RFL]* 38
Second Raid on Al-Na'imah Reported *[RFL]* 38
Explosion Kills 3 at 'Strike Force' Headquarters *[RFL]* 38
Further on Explosion, Casualties *[VOL]* 38
Rebels Claim Responsibility for Blast *[RFL]* 38
'Awn To Punish Perpetrators *[RFL]* 38
Car Explosion Causes 'Blast' *[RFL]* 39
Further on Explosions *[RFL]* 39
School Bus Attacked on Beirut Crossing; 11 Die *[VOM]* 39
Teacher Casualties Reported *[VOM]* 39
'Awn Blamed for Incident *[RFL]* 39
'Awn Detains Troops, Prepares for 'Battle' *[RFL]* 40
'Awn's Police Reportedly Making Arrests in Army *[RFL]* 40
'Confusion,' 'Grumbling' by 'Awn Forces Noted *[RFL]* 40
Lebanese Forces Member Killed in Sniper Fire *[VOL]* 40
'Popular Awareness' Signs Anti-'Awn Circular *[RFL]* 40
Syrians To Intervene in Amal-Hizballah Clashes *[VOM]* 40
Four Killed in Amal-Hizballah Clashes 19 Apr *[RFL]* 41
Iranian Cultural Attache's Office Shelled *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Beirut Judge Subject of Assassination Attempt *[VOL]* 41

SYRIA

Radio Cites Statement on Hostage Release 42
Bush Congratulates Al-Asad on Evacuation Day *[SANA]* 42
Al-Asad Addresses Clergy on Pan-Arab Unity *[Damascus Radio]* 42
USSR Ambassador Reiterates Emigration Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 43
USSR Official Sends Cable on Evacuation Day *[Damascus Radio]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed on Current Situation *[BAKHTAR]* 44
Rebel Rocket Attacks on Kabul Kill Five *[AFP]* 44
Government Forces Continue Battle in Paghman 45
'Mercenaries' Suffer Heavy Losses *[AFP]* 45
Mujahidin Reportedly Down 2d Jet *[Islamabad Radio]* 45
Regime Withdraws Militia Chief *[Islamabad Radio]* 45
30 'Extremists' Killed in Kabul Area Operations *[BAKHTAR]* 46
'Warmongers' Fire 8 Rockets *[BAKHTAR]* 46

Bangladesh

Reforms Commission To Examine, Update Laws *[Dhaka Radio]* 46

India

BSF Arrests 'Saboteurs' at Border; 1 Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Troops Kill Six 'Muslim Militants' in Kashmir *[AFP]* 46
Operations Against Kashmir 'Terrorists' Summarized *[Delhi TV]* 47
Delhi To Ask U.S. To Extradite 'Criminal' *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Gujral Comments on Pakistan's Role in Kashmir *[BBC TV]* 47
Paper Derides BJP Call for Force in Pakistan *[PATRIOT 11 Apr]* 48
Spokesman Announces New Foreign Secretary *[Delhi TV]* 48
Former Kashmir Minister Assassinated in Srinagar *[Delhi Radio]* 49
'Terrorists' Killed, Arms Recovered in Punjab *[Delhi TV]* 49
Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Uttar Pradesh Town *[Delhi Radio]* 49

Iran

Mohtashemi Appointment 'Linked to Hostages Deal'
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Apr] 49
TIMES Editor: 'All Hostages' Freed 'Very Soon' *[BBC TV]* 50
TEHRAN TIMES Welcomes Release of Hostages *[11 Apr]* 50
Ceremonies Held in Honor of Jowshan 'Martyrs' *[Tehran Radio]* 51
British Firm Allegedly Sold Chemicals to Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Cabinet Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Foreign Ministry Statement on Jerusalem Day *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Karrubi Urges Participation on Jerusalem Day *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Shahbazi Delivers Armed Forces Day Message *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Deputy Commander of the Navy Appointed *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Paper Blames Saudi Arabia for Oil Price Slump *[IRNA]* 54

Nepal

Premier-Designate Submits Cabinet Nominees *[AFP]* 54
Premier-Designate Calls for Japan's Support *[KYODO]* 55
Chand Assures New Government of Cooperation *[AFP]* 55
King Birendra Appoints Bhattarai as Premier *[AFP]* 55
New Cabinet List Published *[AFP]* 56

Pakistan

India Allegedly Massing Troops Along Border *[AFP]* 56
Army Chief Visits Forward Positions 18 Apr *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Paper Says India 'Burying Its Head' in Kashmir *[DAWN 12 Apr]* 57
Interior Minister Comments on Kashmir Situation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Apr]* 57
Bhutto Returns From Saudi Visit, Makes Statement *[Islamabad Radio]* 58

Sri Lanka

Ban on Public Meetings, Other Regulations Lifted *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Local Authority Election Matters Decided *[Colombo International]* 58
Government Rejects Prabhakaran Statement *[Madras DINAMALAR 6 Apr]* 59

Palestinian Affairs

'Abd al-Rahman 'Isa Criticizes Abu-Nidal Group

LD1804214890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Rahman 'Isa, official spokesman for Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, has made the following statement on the statements made by the Abu-Nidal group:

The media has reported a statement by the Abu-Nidal group taking issue with sister Tunisia. We find it strange that this statement, which attacks Tunisia and which is full of distortions and machinations, should be issued knowing very well that the Abu-Nidal group has nothing to do with Tunisia and has no organizational or political activity on Tunisian soil. Also, we and everyone knows that Tunisia has been hosting the PLO headquarters since 1982 following the exit from Beirut in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion of sister Lebanon.

Since 7 November 1987, that is, since the movement of change led by brother President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia's national and pan-Arab attitudes are clear to all. [Words indistinct] observers and followers of Tunisia's national attitudes toward the Palestinian cause, recall, as we the sons of the Palestinian revolution do, that Tunisia has never intervened in Palestinian internal affairs and we have not sensed that it has any special objectives regarding this matter. Rather we and all the sons of the Palestinian revolution sense that Tunisia is very eager to provide possible facilities for the Palestinian national action.

The behavior of Abu-Nidal and his false accusation are aimed at exporting his crisis to more than one Arab country, in an attempt to divert attention abroad, a method which has become known to us and to everyone. We confirm at this critical stage in the popular revolution in occupied Palestine that all efforts should be diverted toward our occupied Palestinian land in order to liberate it and to avoid side issues and marginal battles with this or that Arab country, or with this or that group. It is a revolution until victory.

PLO's Milhim Interviewed on Regional Ties

JN1804095690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Apr 90 p 19

[Interview with Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO Executive Committee, head of the occupied territory affairs department, and director of the higher education department, by Samir al-Hiyari and 'Isam Qadamani in Amman on 17 April]

[Text] [AL-RA'Y] When we speak about the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, we necessarily speak about one people. What precautions are being taken to defend this people against the danger facing it, especially in light of the Jewish immigration and the continuous Israeli threats against the Arab nation?

[Milhim] The first step of course is to begin inside the occupied territory, where the internal public, official, and military position has to be bolstered. This is the natural thing to do so long as there is the threat of aggression. There must be mobilization and preparation. The second step is to formulate a concept for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and to bolster this relationship in accordance with the following priorities: coordinating stands in order to face the danger and tackling all other day-to-day relations and the economic problem. This coordination should begin from the top Jordanian and Palestinian leadership. It could then be expanded to include the Arab arena, especially the frontline states. The situation does not tolerate any further delay in convening an urgent Arab summit, because the next Arab summit would be the summit of mobilization to confront the aggression. It would not be an Arab mobilization, but a mobilization of the frontline states, backed by the central Arab depth [al-'umq al-'arabi and al-markazi], not the depth that issues a statement and then returns home. The situation is such that we cannot simply watch the intifadah and not back it, or watch Jordan in its crisis and not come to its aid, or observe differences between the frontline states and not try to patch them up. So, we should first begin with these three circles and then turn to the broader Arab front.

The talk about a strategic balance [tawazun istratiji] with Israel without the union of the frontline states, including the PLO, with the military, material, and moral backing of the Arab depth is unacceptable.

[AL-RA'Y] This leads us to the next question, which is the need to convene an Arab summit in view of the aforementioned dangers. What does the PLO have in the way of a unified Arab plan to confront this danger, and would such a plan be tabled before the summit?

[Milhim] As far as the PLO is concerned, the front line is the confrontation line. The rear line are the political moves and the Palestinian delegations' visits whether to eastern or western churches or the meetings with Carter and Mitterrand, or in Czechoslovakia. These moves provide support for the front line, which is the intifadah. This Palestinian field of action is similar to the bigger circle of Arab action to which we referred when we spoke about the frontline states being bolstered by the Arab depth, and the intifadah being bolstered by the Palestinian-Jordanian depth. Therefore, the PLO's plan is what is currently taking place; namely, coordination and preparation for the next phase of the intifadah which brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] spoke about and whose main features are as follows: bolstering the internal front by bridging the gaps between the strike groups and the organizations and also between the unified leadership and Hamas. This is being done every day and every hour. We are really working hard to strengthen this internal front; namely, the intifadah. At the summit conference, we will bring up the Palestinian and Jordanian issues we have just spoken about and Arab support for the frontline states. We must not allow the front line to collapse,

God forbid, otherwise the danger threatening the second line, which is Jordan, would be greater.

We used to talk about a summit conference to pledge financial support for the intifadah. The situation is no longer the same. Support should take the form of preparations in the Arab homeland to enhance the intifadah and prepare the Arab arena to give it depth.

Of course, the third line after Jordan is represented by Syrian and Iraqi forces. The intifadah needs no more than these three forces—Jordan, Iraq, and Syria. Just imagine what the situation would be like if a strike force represented by Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and the PLO came into being?

The scheme has a military aspect because Israel is not only speaking about millions of immigrants arriving to settle there, but also about satellites, chemical and nuclear weapons, and intercontinental missiles. This means it is mobilizing to carry out a blow of some sort. We must prepare a strike force to prevent this aggression. Iraq is now taking the necessary measures to prevent an expected Israeli blow. By doing this, Iraq has become a frontline state with the enemy and not only a country providing depth. This has given fresh blood to the intifadah and encourages the defenseless people who are fighting with stones. The settlement of Arab differences and the reaffirmation of Jordanian-Palestinian national unity will also be viewed as encouraging. This is real support for the intifadah. The strong and victorious Iraqi stance, which prevents the Arab position from further humiliation has boosted the intifadah's morale. What if this became an Iraqi, Syrian, Jordanian, and Egyptian stance too? Such an eventuality would demoralize the enemy and have an impact on the flow of immigrants, who would then try to leave for other places. No rational Soviet Jewish emigrant would go to a place where his life was threatened. The Soviet emigrant should always bear in mind the phrase: "Stop and think."

[AL-RA'Y] On the question of a Jordanian, Syrian, Iraqi, and Palestinian strike force, what measures have been taken to correct the Palestinian-Syrian relationship, and will the PLO play a specific role to bring about Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation?

[Milhim] There is no doubt that the Jordanian foreign minister's visit to Syria and the letter delivered by Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], which took place at the same time, are part of the measures to heal the rift and overcome differences. This will not happen through mere wishes or statements but through practical and realistic measures when every party, whether Iraq, Syria, Jordan, or the PLO, adopts practical measures out of profound awareness of the impending danger. Every country should adopt practical measures with respect to its relations with other countries, as Jordan and the PLO have done. Jordan has united its ranks through creating a democratic atmosphere, releasing political detainees, and allowing the people to express themselves freely. This is what we would like to happen in Syria. Frankly speaking, I am not reassured personally, because there are no signs in Damascus of a qualitative step, in terms of what we are speaking about, concerning the enhancement of the eastern front. As we all know, the peace initiative and the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue have produced no results. Israel's intransigence continues and it is determined to commit aggression, even against the Church. In view of this atmosphere, any talk about concessions and surrender is ruled out. One must talk about how to consolidate our position to confront the imminent danger, which will destroy everything and spare no one.

Some signals have to be given. Indeed, the media campaigns have stopped, which is good, but the Arab citizen wants to see something tangible on the ground.

We in the PLO are striving to restore Palestinian-Syrian relations. This is also a Syrian and an Arab demand. The atmosphere now is also much better than before, but there are still some embers beneath the ashes that must be put out. We must get rid of anything that mars these relations. In all honesty, the PLO can play a major, effective role in any Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation, if it suceeds in creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding and full coordination with Syria. The PLO's voice would then be heard in Damascus, which is the organization's wish. Discussion of Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation is, of course, possible now in any Syrian-PLO meeting at any level, but the PLO's role would be more effective if Syrian-PLO ties were strengthened first. What I mean is that the PLO's voice should be heard in Damascus just as the Syrian voice should be heard within the PLO. Then we would be able to settle Iraqi-Syrian differences. We want to go to the next Arab summit with new conceptions, coordination, and mutual understanding between the PLO and Jordan, between the PLO and Syria, and between Iraq and Syria. All these conceptions should achieve the unity of Arab ranks against the Israeli danger represented by immigration and threats against the Arab states.

[AL-RA'Y] We have noticed in this interview that you speak more about military than political affairs. Does this mean the PLO is now inclined to abandon the peaceful solution because of Israel's continued intransigence?

[Milhim] When the PLO presented its peace intiative, it did so from a position of strength, not weakness. It presented it through the intifadah, which has confused Israel and won world admiration. This is the position of a victor and a challenger. The intifadah, or what is taking place in the streets of the West Bank, is a new type of war for which Israel was not prepared. The battle is continuing daily in Palestinian streets. It was in the context of this war that the peace initiative was presented. It did not come out of vacuum. Regarding military action, there is no PLO decision stopping military action. Had

the PLO or any Arab state not presented the peace process from a position of strength, it would not have been effective.

In these times, only the voice of the strong is heard. If the voice of peace comes from the strong it will be heard, but if it comes from the weak it will not be. Peace is not made by the weak, but by the strong. Regarding your comment that I am speaking more about military affairs, I would like to say that I am only speaking about preparing the front, the main strike force, and steps in defense. Preparing all these things does not mean attacking anyone or violating the trend of peace. It only means strengthening the defenses of peace; that is the deterrent Arab position to guarantee peace. Now, the Arab position versus Israel is very similar to a parity of terror [tawazun al-ru'b]. We have indeed reached that and therefore we can achieve peace.

When we speak about enhancing military power, popular support, freedom, democracy, and financial assistance for the Arab depth, we are not doing so to commit aggression against anyone but to support the peace initiative that is under discussion and had been adopted by the Arab summit. Speaking about President Saddam Husayn's speech, I would like to remind the Arab nation that an end to the Israeli campaign has commenced in Iraq.

[AL-RA'Y] Since we are speaking about the peace initiative and dialogue with Israel, there are voices within the PLO warning against this course and describing it as an attempt to stop the blessed Palestinian intifadah.

[Milhim] When the PLO Central Council adopted the idea of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on 15 October, the statement it issued made it clear that the dialogue would take place with enemies and not with friends. Friends do not need to hold a dialogue. The purpose of such a dialogue is to reach a political solution, remove the occupation, and establish the state. The intifadah erupted for this purpose. Any talk that dialogue will stop the intifadah is incorrect and does not serve either the peace cause or the Palestinian people's cause.

[AL-RA'Y] This leads us to another question. In a recent memorandum to the PNC, Hamas asked for 40 or 50 seats in the PNC. This gives us the impression that that there is a gap, even differences between the PLO and Hamas, and between Hamas and other factions.

[Milhim] Let me tell you something: No Palestinian faction that can get 40 seats will refuse to do it. Let Hamas make demands. There is a big difference between asking and getting what one wants.

[AL-RA'Y] Some say that if it does not obtain this number of seats Hamas will refuse to join the PLO.

[Milhim] Hamas had several seats in the last PNC. This was a beginning and not an end. Several Hamas members were on the higher committee for the support of the intifadah. Others were members of the PLO Central Council. Hamas has entered the Palestinian arena as a grouping only recently. Palestinian factions such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Fatah have been in the Palestinian arena for the past 20 years. Hamas has now come into existence and must become an indivisible part of the unified leadership, and a major faction of the command. It must have seats in proportion to its presence in the Palestinian arena, as is the case for all the other Palestinian factions. Hamas' demand is not blasphemy. There is nothing wrong in every faction asking for 40 percent, because every party tries to expand its role and to think it is more important than others. But when we discuss figures in the Palestinian arena and assess the presence of this or that faction in the Palestinian arena, we must be realistic. Fatah might ask for 90 percent of the seats. The independents, like me, could ask for the same thing too. This is no problem so long as there is a democratic process. Let each faction make the submission it wants. So long as there are good intentions, we can reach a result through dialogue.

[AL-RA'Y] Is it possible to have a PNC meeting soon, or to be more accurate, this year?

[Milhim] There is a system that governs the convening of the PNC sessions. We are now on the threshold of its convocation. However, because of the stage we are now undergoing on the Palestinian, Arab, and international scenes, it would be more useful to hold a PNC session after we can make the features of the stage clearer. I believe that the features of the situation are now becoming clearer—particularly in regard to what is taking place within Israel, in the U.S. Congress, in the United States, and with Soviet Jewish emigration. There must be a new Arab situation in light of current changes. We have not yet reached a point where we can hold a PNC session at which to define the features of the next stage. However, I believe the PNC session will be held soon because there are many voices calling for one. Several meeting have been held in Amman for this purpose.

[AL-RA'Y] What about President 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, and the Palestinian working paper?

[Milhim] The Palestinian president's previous visit to Jordan clearly laid the bases for the main landmarks of coordination and understanding on all levels. Defining these landmarks would place us face to face with the new stage. We no longer rely on a statement saying that Palestinian-Jordanian relations are distinguished. It is true that this is a major item, but we need to reactivate these relations and to set a program and a joint plan that cover all walks of life in the daily relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian people, starting with this point and ending with the confederation. This will reinforce both the Palestinian and Jordanian positions. The talk about confederation is related to all activities and fields to fill all gaps. This is in order to be able to go

to the summit after we have clearly defined these relations. We also hope that Palestinian-Syrian relations and Iraqi-Syrian relations will be clear.

[AL-RA'Y] Let us go into Palestinian-Jordanian relations. Perhaps a sensitive issue, such as citizenship, will come up?

[Milhim] Yes, all the issues will be discussed, including citizenship. Discussion will also cover future Palestinian-Jordanian relations, including issues related to the system of government, how it will be, and what its features are. All issues will be discussed up to confederation. The independent institutions in both countries and joint institutions will also be discussed.

[AL-RA'Y] Will all this be discussed in detail during 'Arafat's visit to Jordan?

[Milhim] No. But the foundations will be laid and the pertinent authorities will follow up on the details. I would like to state here that in no case whatsoever can we separate Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the cohesion that binds the two people in spite of the many attempts that have been made to break them up. The truth is that Jordanian law has preserved the West Bank. Those who are against this relationship will try to create a rift between the two people.

[AL-RA'Y] Let us go back to the peace initiative. Shim'on Peres has won additional time to form the Israeli Government. What impact will Peres' success or failure have on the peace initiative?

[Milhim] We must not make a mistake and place our bets too much on any of the Zionist parties, be it the Labor Party or the Likud. We have a long experience with Israel, extending over 42 years. During this period, we have come to know each party and its objectives. All parties are different faces of the same coin. The only thing they are ready to give the Palestinians are statements and talk. We must not deceive ourselves with the differences that have surfaced between them in the enemy arena. I am against deluding ourselves that Peres is the one who will settle the issue. Bringing round a camp in Israel to work for peace is something very farfetched. There will never be a DeGaulle in Israel. A cohesive military and economic Arab stand will impose a solution on Israel. Israel will continue to be intransigent. What will boost the Arabs stand, particularly after the collapse of the USSR, the Arabs' major supporter, will be the unity of ranks, represented by the Arab military strike force.

[AL-RA'Y] On the anniversary of the death of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], what does Abu'-'Ala' have to say and how far are the efforts to expose those who collaborated in his assassination?

[Milhim] Israel has neither denied nor confirmed that it carried out this odious crime. However, all indications are that Israel is the one. No one can believe the rumors and allegations Israel disseminates and concocts that the PLO has something to do with this crime. Some Zionist quarters want to make international public opinion believe that this is part of a power struggle among PLO leaders. Israel seeks to achieve two objectives from this. The first is to create a rift among the Palestinians themselves, and the second is to deny that it carries out terrorist operations. However, no one in the world believes it. Israel will not refrain from carrying out similar operations and the physical liquidation of any Palestinian, wherever he may be. Israel's objective is to definitively liquidate the Palestinian cause. The assassination of Abu-Jihad was condemned by the entire world, and more and more evidence is being collected that the Mosad perpetrated the crime. Israel believed that with this crime it would terminate the intifadah as Abu-Jihad was the symbol of the intifadah. It did not know that this would make the Palestinians more determined. Israel now fears the anniversary of Abu-Jihad's death more than it feared him when he was alive.

Al-Hasan on U.S. Role, Israeli, PLO Affairs

JN1304183490 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
12 Apr 90 p 21

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter recently toured countries bordering Palestine, in addition to Israel. Richard Murphy also led an American team on a visit to Tunis where he conferred with President 'Arafat and other Palestinian officials including yourself. What can you tell us about these contacts?

[Al-Hasan] U.S. think tanks occasionally, either on their own initiative or at the instigation of American power centers like the White House, the Pentagon, or the State Department, undertake so-called fact-finding missions. The meetings with the U.S. team in Tunis were expanded, especially since the delegation included an important personality, Fowler, who had already drawn up what for us was an important Rand report released by the Pentagon's research center. The report wondered why time was being wasted, since a Palestinian state would come into being, and the question was whether it would happen painfully or with understanding. If the Palestinian state, the report continues, comes into being painfully, the Middle East would continue in conflict, but if through understanding, it would be possible to talk about coexistence. We view Fowler's inclusion in the delegation as favoring an expanded dialogue. When Murphy was in the administration, he was considered to be sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. The same goes for Ambassador Etherton.

A good many subjects came up with the volatile Middle East situation topping the list. We made the point that Israel was trying to gain time, and therefore, we would not be part of a game played on Israel's terms. Israel is

procrastinating, and is using general elections to resolve its government crisis. This means we will have to wait another six months.

We were duty-bound to make it clear to the American delegation that, if Washington allowed Israel to continue with time-wasting tactics, it must be understood that we have no choice but to wait. Surely we can wait and make the time factor work to the deteriment of Israel. Israel thinks time is on its side, imagining that the intifadah's intensity will abate during the year. Actually, the intifadah is picking up momentum, and we are preparing to confront Israeli occupation to make Israel pay heavily.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you not think that the U.S. Administration is abetting Israel's time-wasting tactics?

[Al-Hasan] The picture is unlikely to clarify soon. If the Americans go along with the idea of a general election in Israel and do not support the pro-peace forces, they are to be held partly responsible. Without a doubt, the United States can impose what it wants. I suggest that the United States reverse its posture of staying out of Israel's domestic politics. The failure of Yitzhaq Shamir's government to survive a confidence motion brought home the message that Likud policies have no future. Unless the United States nudges Israel toward peace, it will be taking the side of the enemies of peace against the majority.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you see a shift in the American position on the strength of recent, apparently positive, statements by U.S. officials?

[Al-Hasan] A serious U.S.-Israeli dialogue has been going on for some time, but Israel is working to perpetuate Middle East tension since it is aware that tension is its raison d'etre. Israel usually seeks out tension. With the Soviet Union increasingly looking inward leaving the United States virtually free to act almost unchallenged in the region, it has dawned on the latter that there is no justification for the conflict to continue. We now see an Israeli-American conflict for the first time. The quarrel is not over us or the Palestinians' interests. Nor is it an American or Israeli fit of remorse over the thousands of Palestinians killed. The conflict is between the strategy of Israel, which is alarmed by the possibility that regional tranquillity and stability will marginalize its value, and the strategy of the Pentagon, which seeks to reduce the military budget and thus reduce world tension, contrary to Israeli interests.

Therefore we take President Bush's statements seriously. Some may argue that the President's recent statements add up to nothing more than rhetoric. I disagree with this assessment. The mystics say that flattery is the route to truth. We are pleased to hear a U.S. President uttering what is right. This paves the way for translating rhetoric into deeds. We must not undervalue these statements. The question to be asked is this: Will Bush hold out against the Zionist lobby? If he should back down, which we hope will not happen, there will be a political crisis requiring a united Arab stand.

[Al-Barqawi] Are Murphy's meetings with the Palestinian leaders a continuation of Carter's tour of other countries?

[Al-Hasan] There is no relationship between the two, and we should not attach great importance to this activity. We, the Palestinians, have learned an important lesson; namely, we should not give details to any foreign party, because we would be exposing our cards without getting anything in return.

As for why we met with Murphy and others, we know that political activity in the United States attaches importance to research and information centers. Therefore, it would be very useful to engage in dialogue with those coming here so that we can explain the situation, provided that we do not present a political decision. Clarification helps in writing a report that is positive for us. In the United States, they do not know the pains of others in the Third World except through reports they read. For example, Fowler's Rand report was important not for us, because it contained less information than we possess, but to U.S. public opinion, and more so to the party that requested that report.

Former U.S. President Carter is a man of good reputation and any testimony he makes will be taken into consideration, especially since he is one of the few U.S. presidents to combine principles with the arrogance of power. We are not afraid of informing Carter or holding dialogue with him, because we are not the oppressors. Moreover, Carter's talk about human rights is considered impartial by U.S. public opinion.

[Al-Barqawi] As a result, do you think Palestinian-U.S. contacts might develop in the near future?

[Al-Hasan] It is regrettable that a superpower—and it is even the greatest one at present—is governed by the Zionist lobby, although we have begun to sense a real desire on the part of President Bush to get away, even if partially, from this influence. The United States should know where its major interests lie. There is no doubt that if he manages to avert this influence and make progress in the relationship between the two conflicting parties, whether through dialogue or effecting a mutual recognition, the road will be open for better U.S.-Palestinian relations. This is what we understand from the U.S. desire to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. But if he fails, it would be difficult to conceive any development in relations between the White House and the PLO.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you not think that, if there had been a unified Arab policy, U.S. policy would have been different?

[Al-Hasan] I personally believe that there is no Palestinian political decisiveness, not to mention military decisiveness. Therefore, we have to work without delay to create an Arab front capable of holding dialogue with the Americans. Such a front should take over the Palestinian ego, the Palestinian character, and the Palestinian

representation. What I mean is that the United States should feel that it is facing a unified Arab line and that disagreement with any side is disagreement with all the others. I am personally optimistic that, in the coming phase there will be a development in the Arab situation as the Arabs begin to realize that Jewish emigration to Palestine is a danger threatening all Arabs. We must also understand that the world will continue to depend on Arab oil for another 50 years—or to be more realistic, for more than 20 years. Thus, we are in a position of power. The imminent Egyptian-Syrian summit meeting might pave the way for a unified Arab position.

In addition, we in the PLO decided to begin a new phase in relations with Syria following the preparatory meetings between brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. All this is for the sake of setting up an eastern front. It is not necessary for this front to declare war; its mere establishment puts heavy pressure on Israel. An Israeli rabbi said preserving Jewish blood is more important than the instructions and provisions of the Torah. This is due to the Iraqi missile that is capable of reaching Israel. This means that power is an ideal way of changing the ideas of others, even if they are from the extremist right wing.

[Al-Barqawi] Before delving into details of the Arab situation, and to continue our discussion of relations with the United States, how do you view the recent U.S. Congress position recognizing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel?

[Al-Hasan] We were not surprised by the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, as the battle between the Zionists and us is being fought all over the world. In the East, we are waging the immigration battle, whereas in the West we are waging a battle against U.S. policy-making, which is largely and significantly influenced by Zionist lobbies.

U.S. President George Bush has announced his position that east Jerusalem is occupied territory and that no settlement activities should be carried out there. This is a sign heralding a new phase in which a U.S. President can express views opposing those of the Zionist lobby. We monitored the reaction of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which took the form of helping to pass the Senate resolution. The near future will show us whether the U.S. President will behave courageously, and whether or not he will be able to act in a balanced way to resolve the Middle East conflict. Bush, European presidents, and Egypt—which has been undertaking the task of relaying our views to the U.S. Administration—are well aware that the Palestinians can make no concessions whatsoever on the issue of Jerusalem, as holy Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. Besides, there can be no bargaining whatsoever on the future of Jerusalem. Furthermore, postponing a discussion of its future is also out of the question. "This is a Palestinian decision." [quotation marks as published]

The Jerusalem issue is not only a Palestinian issue. No, it is also an Arab and Islamic issue. In addition, it is also a Christian issue; and this makes it an issue that concerns Arabs and non-Arabs. This was publicly and clearly affirmed by the pope in the Vatican.

In our contacts with other parties, we asked them to read UN Security Council Resolution no. 242, which was approved by all concerned parties. This resolution covers all the lands occupied in 1967, foremost among which is Jerusalem. Besides, we view the Hula areas on the borders with Syria occupied in 1967 as part of the territory of the state of Palestine.

The PLO rejects the resolution, regardless of the justifications advanced—the justifications saying that the resolution was adopted to create a suitable climate for peace, to help with the formation of an Israeli government, and to help the Israelis opt for peace. The PLO is awaiting the reaction of the U.S. President himself. Israel should not be appeased at the expense of the Palestinian people. Jerusalem is not only a vital interest for the Palestinian people. No, it is a sacred issue over which no concessions can be made. The U.S. Senate can appease Israel by granting it parts of U.S. territory, or by allowing mass Jewish immigration to the United States. However, the Senate does not have the right to talk about land that is not U.S. territory. Moreover, the Senate does not have the right to pass a resolution on the future of Jerusalem, which primarily concerns Palestinians. Even at the negotiating table, there can be no room for questioning the fact that this holy city is the capital of Palestine.

The Senate and Congress [as published] resolution does not have the force of the law. However, the resolution might be endorsed by other U.S. agencies. Then, the matter would not be resisted by the Palestinians alone. I know that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, would be the first to fight such a stance. I am also aware that Washington has been informed that the Jerusalem issue concerns all Muslims. I am also certain that King Hassan II of Morocco, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, will neither remain idle nor maintain neutrality in such an eventuality. Kuwait and all other Arab and Islamic states are also expected to fight such an eventuality.

At any rate, we hope that more rational positions will emerge, as the present problems are enough to cause an explosion in the Middle East.

[Al-Barqawi] We return to the Arab situation, of which you attempted to paint a rosy picture. Do you not see black holes in this picture, holes caused by the fact that an Arab state is mediating with an enemy state and that some Arab states are not providing adequate financial support for the intifadah?

[Al-Hasan] I believe that the pursuit of a sound policy will create an atmosphere free of problems. When we speak about the scarcity of Arab funds, we are expressing a fact. We need $40 million every month, whereas we receive no more than $18 million. However, this does

not change the fact that, had it not been for Arab aid—which is less than half the amount needed—the intifadah would have faced enormous difficulties.

We are currently talking about the difficulties of developing the intifadah and not about difficulties that might result in the intifadah's collapse—for two reasons: The first reason concerns the willpower of the Arab people, while the second is linked to the availability of Arab aid.

We greet the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which extends more than $6 million to the intifadah. We also greet Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Libya. They all extend aid to the Palestinians. However, while thanking them for the aid they extend, we also appeal to them to double this aid, because we are not waging a battle only to defend Palestine, which is in the heart of every Arab, but it is a battle to contain the anticipated Israeli aggression against Jordan and other Arab countries. Let us look at the conflict that is currently raging in Israel. It is a conflict between those who are satisfied with the current situation and those who refuse to withdraw and seek further expansion. Those who want to retreat are waiting for better circumstances to achieve expansion. [sentence as published] Zionism is based on emigration and expansion, and the collapse of any of these two elements means the collapse of Zionism.

[Al-Barqawi] You have spoken about a step in the near future toward the normalization of Palestinian-Syrian relations. But the PLO has its own demands, so has it abandoned those demands?

[Al-Hasan] No one can hold dialogue with a party that is keeping your cadres in its prisons. We believe Syria has expressed good intentions by releasing a small number of detainees. The most important point is that the situation in the region is at a crossroads. The whole world is experiencing a new stage. One world is awakening and another is collapsing, and the Arabs must be in the first world. As revolutionary politicians, we must focus on what is most important. We must work to stop Jewish emigration, force the Israeli occupation forces to withdraw, and stop Israeli expansion. This gives the policy of understanding more importance than our demands. If we succeed in reaching an understanding, we will be able to deal with the other issues, especially since signs of goodwill are now looming in the horizon.

[Al-Barqawi] So, should we expect something new in this regard?

[Al-Hasan] I believe we are about to make a qualitative step in our relations with Syria.

[Al-Barqawi] Jordan has an important position in the Arab world, and Palestinian relations with this country are excellent. What about the PLO's position on participation in the formation of Jordanian parties?

[Al-Hasan] We are happy with what has taken place in Jordan. The prevailing democratic atmosphere in Jordan that followed the elections reflected the structure of the Jordanian forces on the ground and their political trends. We are pleased with this. The situation that has created a national unity in Jordan creates better circumstances. As Palestinians, at least as the PLO, we must not interfere in these parties. This is because, at this stage, we must avoid any friction with Jordan. Israel is talking about an alternative homeland. As we know, by an alternative homeland, Tel Aviv does not mean giving Jordan to the PLO. In fact, Israel interprets this expression as dividing Jordan; the south for the Jordanians, the north for the Palestinians, and the al-Salt mountains and Jordan Valley for the Israelis. Israel considers itself a partner. Therefore, we must take care to protect Jordan and reject the alternative homeland, because we will not accept any homeland other than Palestine, and because Israel seeks to divide Jordan.

We are pleased that Mudar Badran has assumed the post of prime minister in Jordan. Jordan has known two types of prime ministers. The first type gives priority to relations with the Palestinians and then to relations with others. This first type is represented by Mudar Badran and Ahmad 'Ubaydat. The second type believes that priority must be given to relations with Syria, and then the Palestinians. Zayd al-Rifa'i is of the second type. The PLO and all its factions must avoid creating doubts, including the formation of political parties.

[Al-Barqawi] We have one more point about the cabinet crisis in Israel. Can you first give us an analysis?

[Al-Hasan] This is the first Israeli cabinet crisis caused by losing a vote of confidence. This time the crisis was not the result of disturbances or social demands, but it was a political crisis on the Palestinian issue. The same issue about which Golda Me'ir asked 20 years ago: Where are the Palestinians? But, here is the intifadah imposing itself on every Israeli home. The intifadah has nullified the possibility of absolute Israeli security. The withholding of the vote of confidence reflected an Israeli desire to hold dialogue with the Palestinians. What is currently taking place in Israel is a turning point in the future of political relations inside Israeli society. The arrival of more immigrants complicates the issue. This emigration is a new invasion to strengthen the extremist elements that seek to occupy more territory.

[Al-Barqawi] Should we be optimistic if the Labor Party forms an Israeli government?

[Al-Hasan] We would have preferred to wrestle with Shamir, because he exposes his own shortcomings through his ideas. However, we should not underestimate the Labor Party, since both are two faces of the same coin. Peres enters the arena with the slyness of a fox, while Shamir refuses to enter the arena.

Despite Peres' foxiness, and the major international support he enjoys, we are capable of defeating him, helped by our support from West Europe. We have worked all along for this day.

Regarding the Labor Party, we do not forget that it was the party that led every war against us, except for the 1982 war. It is the party that set up settlements and during whose time the attempt to burn down al-Aqsa mosque took place.

[Al-Barqawi] A Palestinian leader has revealed that meetings took place between officials from the PLO and personalities from the Israeli Likud Party. We do not wish to know the names of these persons; however, we are interested in their level, the topics that were discussed, and what they had to offer.

[Al-Hasan] I am not the right man to answer this question. I have not seen this file, nor do I know its contents. What I do know is that there are Israeli figures within the Likud at the level of 'Amiraf [as published] who did hold contacts with Palestinian leaders. Shamir was not able to kick out or prosecute these people, despite my conviction that he knew about those meetings.

[Al-Barqawi] One last question, even if it comes rather late: The lecture you delivered in London a few months ago raised many comments, to the extent that some Fatah officials were waiting for you. What were the circumstances that led to that?

[Al-Hasan] The comments made about the lecture were either malicious or were made by people who do not have the patience to read carefully through a political text.

I did not say that we have been working for over 20 years to prepare for what we proposed recently. Whoever reads a political text should not extract bits of it out of context.

The question under discussion during the seminar where I delivered the lecture was: The peace process has not taken place because you, the Palestinians, still want to destroy Israel.

I said that the nonexistence of peace so far was due to Israel's non-recognition of the PLO. It is actually funny that Israel wants to interfere in forming the Palestinian delegation. As for destroying Israel, I have been saying since 1986, and I repeat now: We have proceeded to set a humanitarian political solution to the Palestine question through a democratic Palestinian state.

Whoever reads the text will find that I am telling the listeners in London that, yes, before 1968—that is before the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—yes, we wished to occupy northern Palestine and its borders—that is the 1948 borders. However, after 1968, the goals changed.

I said that, since 1968, we have been proposing a humanitarian political solution. This solution depends on establishing a democratic Palestinian state, that is establishing a state over the whole of Palestine on whose territory both Arabs and Jews live without discrimination among religions. I provided evidence that, when we proposed this solution, which is the establishment of the democratic state on all Palestinian territory along with a humanitarian solution to the Jewish presence, it was rejected. I also provided evidence that Egypt's goal after 1967 was to remove the effects of the aggression and not to destroy the Israel of 1948. When Sadat waged the 1973 war, his goal was to retrieve Sinai, not to reach Tel Aviv.

I gave this presentation, which is a fact of contemporary Palestinian history. Since 1968, we have been proposing what could lead to a humanitarian political solution. In London I said clearly: We shall never abandon the dream of setting up the democratic Palestinian state. When I spoke of security, I said: Since two dreams are in conflict with each other—a Palestinian dream to set up the democratic state on all Palestinian soil, and an Israeli dream to expand and set up the greater Jewish state—the security guarantees are the ones that will prevail, until one party manages to realize its objectives through non-coercive methods.

'Arafat on Resistance to 'Zionist Colonization'

LD1604105490 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 16/4/90 (APS)—The head of the Palestinian state, Yasir 'Arafat, called on the Palestinians and the Christians to struggle side by side to defend Al-Quds and its holy places against the Zionist colonization, in a message addressed to the populations of the occupied territories, on the occasion of Easter.

Yasir 'Arafat paid homage during these sacred days of Easter and Ramadan, to the common resistance led by the Christian and Palestinian communities to protect the holy places of Al-Quds against the Zionist who want to colonize them. 'Arafat also hailed the attitude of the Greek-Orthodox patriarch, Diordoros "who opposed, with his brother Socivto the Israeli colonists who tried to settle in an old building for the Greek-Orthodox pilgrims, near the St Sepulae." Diodoros was treated badly by the Zionist soldiers, during a demonstration of opposition to this colonist settlement.

Yasir 'Arafat Meets With Tunisia's Khelil

LD1704005990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The latest developments in the Middle East in the light of the current peace efforts were at the center of the meeting between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Mr. Ismail Khelil, the [Tunisian] foreign minister. The meeting was held on the occasion of the banquet hosted by Mr. Hakim Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis, in honor of the minister.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Arab, and particularly Palestinian, arena in the light of the current peace initiatives and the diplomatic action undertaken by the Palestinian president. The two sides also reviewed the issue of the

emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories and the challenges it poses to the Arab world.

This meeting falls in the framework of the regular consultations held at the highest level between Tunisia and Palestine to discuss topical issues. The meeting also enabled the two sides to reiterate the mutual trust which characterizes Tunisian-Palestinian relations and Tunisia's constant support for the just Palestinian cause.

Swedish Foreign Minister Meets 'Arafat in Tunis

LD1604103690 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 0930 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Report by Tidningarnas Telegrambyra correspondent]

[Text] Yesterday evening in Tunis, Foreign Minister Sten Andersson met with Yasir Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. The meeting is part of Sten Andersson's efforts to bring about negotiations between Israel and the PLO. 'Arafat's adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, said that it is important for these efforts to continue. According to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Sen Andersson is now expected in Cairo, and political observers in Tunis draw the conclusion that the PLO leadership, through Sten Andersson, intends to convey a message to Egypt.

PLO Chief Receives Cable From Al-Qadhdhafi

JN1504204090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1819 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a message of support and solidarity from his brother Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi following the U.S. Senate resolution considering the city of Jerusalem as the Zionist entity's capital.

In the message, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi described the U.S. Senate resolution considering the occupied city of Jerusalem as the Zionist entity's capital as a flagrant encroachment on Muslim holy places and sanctities, and a campaign led by the U.S. Administration in full coordination with Zionism.

In his message to leader President Abu-'Ammar, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that this aggressive and rancorous resolution violates international law and UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian Arab city of Jerusalem. He said that the resolution violates all international norms and recognized political traditions.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi called for a courageous stand against the resolution and for confronting it. He reiterated Libya's support for the Palestine cause.

PLO Central Committee on 'Arafat's Recent Visits

LD1604104290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0947 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, April 16 (KUNA)—The Central Committee of the PLO's mainstream Fatah Movement held a meeting here Sunday night headed by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. Palestinian sources said the meeting reviewed the results of 'Arafat's recent visits to France, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. The meeting also touched on the latest developments in the occupied territory and on the Zionist groups taking over Palestinian buildings in Jerusalem, the sources said.

PLO Calls for Islamic, Christian, Jewish Meeting

JN1304174890 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 12 Apr 90 p 23

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has ended three days of meetings during which it discussed important subjects including Israeli plans to attack Arab countries, Soviet Jewish emigration, and the intifadah.

In an exlusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zabri] revealed that the PLO has decided to call for an Islamic, Christian, and Jewish religious meeting, with the participation of the spiritual leaders of the three religious faiths to oppose the U.S. Congress resolution, passed over two weeks ago, that considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel. This contradicts international and religious norms. The PLO will begin work soon to prepare to hold this meeting in the next few weeks.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa adds that the Executive Committee reviewed the most important Palestinian and Arab developments and discussed the results of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's visits to France and Italy. He added that the PLO assessed these results, especially Paris and Rome's support for Palestinian national rights and convening of the international conference.

The PLO Executive Committee also reviewed the results of the Jerusalem committee's meetings in Rabat. The PLO appreciated these results in light of the statement and the resolutions issued which, according to the Palestinian official, respond to the cause in a sufficient manner. However, practical steps are needed on the international level.

The PLO Executive Committee values the stand declared recently by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, since it retrieves the spirit of mobilizing the Arabs and the Arab military option to confront Israel and its aggression. Abu-'Ali Mustafa said that the latter option had been dropped at the Fes summit. The Iraqi president's stand mobilizes Arab action to confront aggression against the Arab nation. This requires the establishment of the eastern front.

He explained that this requires two steps: the first is Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation and the second is the rectification of Palestinian-Syrian relations. This will pave the way for an Arab summit to discuss the issues of Soviet Jewish emigration, its dangers, and what it represents, as well as the popular intifadah and the duties of the Arab countries in implementing the resolutions taken on this subject, in addition to the Arab situation as a whole and the Israeli threats to Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. He stressed the need to hold an urgent extraordinary Arab summit.

The Palestinian official revealed that the Executive Committee has drawn up a plan of action on this topic to hold contacts with the Arab countries and the Arab League's general secretariat; and at the same time, to activate Arab committees by approaching the capitals of the permanent members of the international Security Council, UN organizations, and world organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference.

Envoy to Jordan on Immigration, Coordination

JN1604112790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Apr 90 p 18

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Jordan, has said Jordan and the PLO continue their efforts to stop Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

In statements made yesterday, the ambassador explained that Arab moves so far are still incompatible with the danger posed by Jewish emigration from East Europe.

The ambassador said: We in the PLO and fraternal Jordan are sounding the alarm to alert the Arabs to the dangers of this immigration.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahim pointed out that the PLO and Jordan are exerting separate efforts, but the subject calls for joint Arab action. He said the PLO has made efforts with East Europe and the USSR and reached agreements on the subject. The ambassador said that Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, will visit the USSR soon to follow up the subject.

The ambassador added: The agreement reached with the USSR could limit the immigration but not stop it completely, so the subject calls for studied, coordinated Arab steps within a program to confront the immigration and its threat to the entire Arab national security.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahim said Yasir 'Arafat's next visit to Jordan will tackle the immigration issue and other topics relating to coordination with Jordan in all fields in order to face all possibilities in the present age of rapid international changes that call for quick, studied steps.

UN, Pope Called on To Stop 'Zionist Violations'

JN1404205490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] The PLO has urged UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and His Holiness Pope John Paul II to move quickly to stop Zionist violations in Jerusalem and protect the holy sites in light of the recent events there.

In a statement published in Tunis yesterday, a Palestinian spokesman urged the United Nations to send a special delegation to occupied Jerusalem to monitor Zionist violations in the holy city and in the occupied Palestinian territories in general. The Palestinian spokesman denounced the savage attack by Zionist occupation troops against Greek Orthodox Patriarch Dhiodhoros. He said the savage attack constitutes a serious precedent and reflects the blind fanaticism that controls the minds of the Zionist enemy leaders.

Businessmen To Establish Development Group

JN1504203890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1643 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Excerpts] At the invitation of brother Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the State of Palestine, a meeting of Palestinian businessmen and intellectuals was held in Tunis from 13 to 14 April 1990. The aim of the meeting was to hold consultations and exchange views on the current situation in which the Palestinian people are continuing their blessed intifadah.

After electing brother 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman as chairman of the meeting, and brother Carlos Abu-Mahir as deputy chairman, the participants heard a speech by president Yasir 'Arafat in which he reviewed various aspects of the Palestinian problem, concentrating on the brave intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory and various efforts accompanying it since the approval of the Palestinian peace intiative in the Palestine National Council's Algiers session on 20 November 1988.

After saluting our people's struggle and their intifadah, the participants emphasized their support for the Palestinian political program and the PLO Central Council's decisions in its successive meetings, particularly their recent Baghdad session in October 1989. The participants stressed the Palestinian people's unity, both inside and outside the occupied territory in support for the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, and their commitment to working with the Palestinian leadership in its attempt to complete the Palestinian political program and establish the independent state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital on their liberated territory.

The participants discussed the serious implications of Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine and emphasized that earnest efforts must be made to hold an Arab summit as soon as possible to face the challenges, dangers, and threats confronting the Arab nation and states, including the threat posed by Jewish immigration to pan-Arab security. [passage omitted]

The participants expressed their concern over dwindling Arab material support for the intifadah—support that falls short of the expectations of the Arab and Palestinian people and the needs of the intifadah, the major bright torch in the Arab homeland. They expressed their hope that this support would increase and thanked all those who extend support to our brave people. [passage omitted]

The participants believe that general economic policies should be followed by adopting definite measures and plans as a mechanism to implement these policies, based on the participants' commitment to the intifadah's priorities. Therefore, the participants selected the following measures on a top priority basis:

1. The Palestinian Development and Credit Foundation [PDCF] [mu'assat at-tanmiyah wa al-iqrad al-filastini].

The establishment of the PDCF, whose task will be to develop and finance feasible economic projects in the occupied territory with the participation of the Palestinian, Arab, and international financiers—particularly Palestinian economic figures. These financiers will participate in the capital, in the purchase of bonds, and in the various financing means approved by the Fund and with sufficient resources and requirements.

A followup committee will be assigned to prepare, within six months, a study on the best means of establishing this foundation.

2. The Traditional and Handicraft Industries Fund. This fund will develop and finance industries related to handicrafts by providing easy means of financing and the necessary services for training and marketing, especially in world markets. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Major Enemy' of Palestinians, Arabs

JN1404211890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1853 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Station commentary: "This Is the Real Face of the United States—the Major Enemy of the Palestinians and the Entire Arab Nation"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great militant Palestinian people, sons of our glorious Arab nation: The policy of the United States of America in the region has failed yet another test. In that test, coming in the term of office of President George Bush, that policy revealed the extent of its hostility toward the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, and the extent of its bias in favor of the Zionist entity and its aggressiveness and expansionism. This test was demonstrated by the ugly action taken by Zionist settlers, under protection of Zionist soldiers' rifles, in the first settlement activity in East Jerusalem, when more than 200 of those settlers stormed the St. John Hotel, near the Church of Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem's Christian sector. The U.S. Administration has refused to denounce that Zionist settlement action. The U.S. Administration's spokesman has even come out with words encouraging this settlement action when he urged what he called Christians, Muslims, and Jews not to carry out provocative acts against each other.

Naturally, it would be quite a boring repetition to continue to say that the United States of America is the major enemy of the Palestinians and the major enemy of the Arabs, both in the past and in the present.

Clear facts emerge every day to confirm that the United States of America is getting more and more involved in this ugly hostility toward the Palestinians and Arabs. It would be enough to recall the facts that became known to everyone recently. The United States is the party that puts its full weight behind the waves of Soviet Jews emigrating to the Zionist entity, and it was the party that closed the door to them so that they could go nowhere else. It was the party that pressured the Soviets and made a barter deal with them to participate in making the Jews emigrate to our homeland. The United States is also the party behind the ill-fated, three-sided campaign against glorious Iraq. It is the also party that paves the way, justifies, and creates the circumstances for any possible Zionist aggression. The United States of America is also doubling its financial, military, economic, and political aid to Israel so that Israel can continue, from a U.S. viewpoint, to carry out aggression and expansion.

So, it would be a boring repetition to say the United States is our major enemy, because each of our children and each individual of our people and nation knows this fact, feels it daily, and sees it with his own eyes all the time.

However, it is not enough merely repeat this fact—the fact of the U.S. hostility toward us, its absolute support for our enemy, and its use of all of its resources against our rights and interests as Palestinians and Arabs. There must be measures—practical, strategic, and in the field—to face it. Those who pretend they are friends of the United States in this region curse it in secret and know that it is the cause of every misfortune, crime, and disaster. Yes, there must be practical, field, and strategic measures to face the blatant U.S. hostility toward the Arab nation and the Palestinian people's rights.

The previous futile equation, which satisfied the United States of America and which was based on the premise that the United States is both adversary and judge at the same time, cannot continue. No, one cannot continue with this futile equation. Therefore, what is required as a first step toward a new Arab horizon is to convene an early and serious Arab summit to dot the i's and cross the t's and to determine the priorities to face the challenges. O Arabs, an Arab summit is required. O Arabs, a serious position is required to face the U.S. hostility. Revolution until victory.

Faruq Qaddumi on Israeli Government Crisis

JN1404114090 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Rabat "on the periphery of the Jerusalem Committee meetings"—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ma'ruf] Observers of the Arab-Israeli conflict have been focusing their attention on Israel's government crisis. How do you view this crisis?

[Qaddumi] The current government crisis in Israel is, in fact, evidence that Israel is unable to face the intifadah and resistance in occupied Palestine. We believe the situation is so critical that neither Shamir nor Peres can resolve it, because they cannot take any positive step in favor of peace in the region. This is due to the nature of the two parties (Labor and Likud). They both agreed to the settlement scheme and are competing for accommodation of immigrant Jews. We do not distinguish between the two parties. The Labor Party was the one that launched three wars against the Arabs and built the settlements. We therefore believe that it is still early for any peace process to begin. If someone is hoping for something from Peres, I tell him that Peres proposed several initiatives in the past but all of them were unsuccessful because they did not address the essence of the conflict; that is, they did not recognize the national, legitimate, and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Ma'ruf] What about Peres' announcement that he has formed a government?

[Qaddumi] Even if Peres formed a government, it would not be able to put forward new peace initiatives because these need the green light from the United States. As it is well known, the Americans' man in Israel is Yitzhaq Rabin. He is being prepared for the mission when they feel the time is right. But Israel's crisis is more than simply a government crisis. The Israeli community, naturally, is going through historic and fateful crises. The intifadah, no doubt, sped up the surfacing of these crises in a remarkable way. [passage omitted]

[Ma'ruf] Do you think that Israel's threats across the border are part of the attempt to overcome its intifadah troubles?

[Qaddumi] We, in fact, find no explanation for subsequent Israeli threats except that they are in line with the logic of arrogance and the policy of agression and expansion practiced by Israel and supported by the United States. [passage omitted]

The most dangerous part of the Israeli threats, however, is that they are also implicit American threats directed at Jordan with a view to dragging the country into something similar to the Camp David accords. We, therefore, must remain vigilant at all times and not be deceived by Israel's or Washington's calls to peace.

[Ma'ruf] Shall I take it that the Palestinian peace initiative has reached a dead end?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian peace initiative came to prove the Palestinian people's good faith on a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict. We showed the utmost possible flexibility; we proved to the world that we are serious and we won world sympathy. However, Israel and the United States arrogantly rejected the initiative and did not vote for it when it was announced by brother Yasir 'Arafat (the Palestinian president) in Geneva. This is surprising, for all other world nations, including Western Europe, accepted the initiative. Only Washington and Israel are standing against the entire world. Does not this indicate U.S. arrogance despite its claim that it is pressuring Israel?

Through our initiative, we showed the world that Israel and the U.S. Administration are the obstacles to peace and security in the Middle East. I think the world, which said that the Palestinians have been moving along the road of peace, should translate words into action and enthusiasm into reality.

Al-Surani on Conditions for Dealing With Israel

JN1204214890 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Apr 90 p 1

[By Ashraf al-'Ushari]

[Excerpt] Cairo—Jamal al-Surani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said in a statement to AL-YAWM that the PLO will not deal with any Israeli Government, whether under Peres or Shamir, as long as it neither recognizes the rights of the Palestinian people nor considers the establishment of the Palestinian state, before agreeing to hold any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo or any other capital. [sentence as published]

Al-Surani added: We are now waiting for the results of the continuing negotiations in Israel for forming an Israeli government that would extend its hand to grasp the peace of the brave with the PLO—although a Peres government is closer in this regard. However, if Peres and Shamir continue to maintain the backward mentality of 1948 that calls for killing the Palestinians and displacing them from their homes, destroying their mosques and churches, and confiscating their lands, we will not deal with them. This is what we have explained to all Israeli leaders through the emissaries they dispatched to the PLO or through the continuing contacts assisted by the [Egyptian] government to this effect.

Al-Surani asked: With whom will the Israeli leaders talk if they reject the PLO? Will they talk with ghosts? No Palestinian, inside or outside the occupied territory will agree to any talks or contacts with Israel without the PLO. [passage omitted]

Fatah's Bal'awi Calls for International Conference

JN1804214990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1820 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The PLO has informed the United States that the achievement of a lasting peace settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict can only take place by way of an international conference for peace in the Middle East. This came during a meeting held yesterday between brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and ambassador of the state of Palestine in Tunis, and U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, Jr. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the region, especially those related to the Palestine question and the Middle East peace process.

Comment on Abu-Sharif News Conference in Helsinki

LD1804194390 Helsinki International Service in Finnish 1500 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] The Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO, hopes for active assistance from Finland for promoting the peace process in the Middle East. Bassam Abu-Sharif, private adviser to the PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, met with Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio today and handed him a letter from 'Arafat addressed to President Mauno Koivisto.

Ossi Kervinen was present at the PLO news conference:

[Kervinen] 'Arafat's adviser, Bassam Abu-Sharif, said at his press conference that the PLO expects from Finland practical measures, on which he did not, however, want to speak any further in public at this stage:

[Begin Abu-Sharif recording, in English fading to Finnish translation] We are not talking about theories, we are talking about pratical things, some of which we would not like to talk about publicly. [end recording]

[Kervinen] Abu-Sharif said he hopes that President Koivisto and the Finnish Government will take measures which the PLO representative described as important and constructive. 'Arafat's adviser did not want to disclose anything more.

It was stated by the Foreign Ministry that no single actions were discussed during the meeting between Abu Sharif and Foreign Minister Paasio. The PLO only hopes for a contribution by Finland to the solving of the problems of the Middle East. There are two differing stories here. The content of the letter addressed to President Koivisto is not known. Abu-Sharif said that the letter describes the dangeous situation in the Middle East and the deadlock in the peace process. It expresses hope for Finnish assistance in promoting the peace process and states the PLO's stand on the immigration of Soviet Jews.

It is already known that the PLO would like a peace solution in the Israeli-occupied territories similar to the solution in Namibia. In other words, through elections to be arranged with the assistance of the United Nations. Through the work of the United Nations' Namibian representative, Martti Ahtisaari, and, on the other hand, through its peace-keeping activity Finland has much information about the possibilities of such a solution. As a member of the UN Security Council Finland could also work for such an international operation.

Another matter in which the PLO seeks Finnish aid are the problems concerning the emigration of Soviet Jews. According to the PLO Israel is using Soviet Jews as tools of its occupation policy. The PLO says it supports the right to free emigration, but not the fact that Israel settles the immigrants in the occupied territories. Abu-Sharif is sure to have been told today that Finland's stand is roughly the same. What could the PLO then expect from Finland? Perhaps the answer is included in Abu-Sharif's thoughts about the mutual schedule of a peace solution and Jewish immigration.

'Arafat's adviser said: We do not oppose Jewish immigration to Israel after a political settlement in the Middle East has been achieved. After a political peace settlement we have no problem; we shall have our own state and Israel will be free to bring 5 million or even 6 million Jews to its own territory. But, according to Abu-Sharif, the PLO is concerned over the fact that Israel may ship hundreds of thousands of immigrants to Palestinian territories before a peace solution. This would mean a continuation of the policy of expansion and changing the demographic character of the occupied territories.

On the question of Jewish immigration both Finland and the PLO say that they are working for human rights. Now the PLO seems to hope that Finland will strive, both through diplomatic means and practical actions, to promote a peace settlment in the Middle East before the immigration leads to even more serious problems. According to Abu-Sharif, the Israeli Government is faced with a difficult choice: If it does not choose the path of peace, it will have chosen war.

Radio Urges Intifadah Confontation To Escalate

JN1804211790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1837 GMT 18 Apr 90

["Talk of the Intifadah" feature: "The Fever of Zionist Settlement Requires More Vigorous Confrontations and That the Region Rally Around the Options of Military Force"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] If the biggest crime of the age—the crime of the Soviet Jewish emigration—has revealed what was hidden, exposed the facts, and put all Arabs in the picture of the overwhelming danger facing them, then the Zionist settlement fever in the city of Jerusalem and the Zionist settlers' encroachments, provocations, and black, aggressive spirit in the Christian Quarter are the clearest evidence that this Zionist entity—with its official and popular structures, major and minor parties, and the forces of its regular army and

the herds of its settlers alike—cannot produce any orientations or acts that agree with the concept of peace. On the contrary, it is the entity of racist gangs, worn-out myths, rancor, terrorism, and crime. It is the entity of hateful racism and bloody settlement. On that basis, the United States has been engaged in attempts for over 40 years to embellish the face of the Zionist entity and depict it as willing to accept peace and coexistence with the rights of others. The latest of these intensive, continuous, and numerous U.S. attempts has been the pledge made by the administration of President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker. These attempts are aimed at preventing the world public opinion from exposing the Zionist terrorism and the influx of resources and aid to enable this Zionist entity to continue the settlement plans and designs of aggression.

Thus, the Zionist settlement fever, as happened in Jerusalem recently, plainly revealed that this Zionist entity cannot respond to the call for peace, and that it does not have a leadership capable of making peace. It has also been revealed that this entity's internal and psychological structure and interests are against the concept of peace. Likewise, the Zionist settlement fever, as recently happened in Jerusalem, has proved the futility, connivance, and bias of the U.S. policy, which meaninglessly and uselessly tries to be antagonist and judge at the same time.

On this basis, the available option to our heroic people and our entire Arab nation becomes that of self-defense through mobilizing all elements of strength. As demonstrated daily in the arenas of clashes in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nabulus, Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Janin, Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, al-Birah, Bi'r Zayr, Khan Yunus, Rafah, Bi'r al-Balah, Qabatiyah, Qalqilyah, and in hundreds of villages and camps, the gigantic generations of our people deeply and definitely believe that in order to confront the hateful Zionist occupation and settlement, they must struggle, escalate this struggle, and take this struggle, within the framework of the blessed intifadah, to higher stages, more comprehensive programs, larger confrontations, and more blazing violence. Our Arab nation is embracing this conviction on a wide scale after being awakened by the shining facts and becoming immune to the U.S. lies and Zionist tricks. The danger of the Jewish emigration, the Zionist settlement fever, the Zionist maps of expansion inscribed on coins and included in documents negate the Zionist peace claims and negate U.S. attempts to cover up the crimes, abhorrent acts, and terrorism of this cursed Zionist entity. [passage omitted on greetings to the intifadah]

PNC Speaker, Delegation Leave for Baghdad

JN1704071690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Apr 90 p 22

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, left for Baghdad yesterday heading a Palestinian delegation to participate in the emergency conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union which will discuss the decision taken by the European Parliament against Iraq.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Gujral To Meet Pakistani Counterpart on Kashmir

BK1804132290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 18 (AFP)—The foreign ministers of India and Pakistan will meet in New York, possibly this Sunday [22 April], in a bid to defuse tensions over the Kashmir dispute, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Wednesday quoting official sources.

PTI said Inder Kumar Gujral and his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, would both be in New York for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, convened to deal with economic issues.

Mr. Gujral will leave for the United States Saturday [21 April], the agency said.

More on Meeting

BK1804144290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] India and Pakistan are to have a fresh round of high-level talks on the increased Pakistani interference in Punjab and Kashmir. The talks will be held between the External Affairs Minister Mr. I.K. Gujral and the Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan during Mr. Gujral's visit to New York beginning this weekend.

Mr. Gujral will leave for New York on Saturday [21 April] to attend the special session of the UN General Assembly convened to deal with economic issues. [Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English at 1600 GMT on 18 April in a similar item adds: "Official sources in New Delhi said that the initiative for the talks came from Islamabad."]

Algeria

Interior Ministry: Protest Must Respect Law

LD1804143590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] I have just received the following statement from the Interior Ministry. The statement says: Sometimes the Council of Government's statement of 16 April has been interpreted as a pressure against the exercising of public liberties, and as a will to employ force to prevent the marches, which have been organized for Friday [20 April], from taking place. The Interior Ministry statement says: The 16 April statement aims to remind [the people] that the whole mechanism of democratic debate and political contest is now available and guaranteed providing that expression in that debate is carried out within the framework of social composure and peace without violence or pressure on institutions and citizens.

The Interior Ministry stressed that if the public authorities do not have the powers to prevent demonstrations organized within the framework of the law, they have the responsibility to maintain respect for the law, protect liberties and the citizens' properties everywhere and at every occasion, and to firmly confront encroachments.

FLN Political Bureau Discusses Situation

LD1804192390 Algiers APA in English 1323 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers. 18/4/90 (APS)—The Political Bureau of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party held today an extraordinary meeting to examine the evolution of the political situation.

FLN's Abdelhamid Mehri on Mosques, Rallies

LD1804210590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] What is noticeable at home is the general anxiety over some political moves which many consider a threat to social peace and political stability. There have been many reactions concerning those moves, calling as a whole for wisdom, calm, and the responsible exercise of politics, away from narrow interests. In relation to this prevailing political situation, the FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau held an extraordinary meeting to study these developments. Also, FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri held a news conference at which he dealt with sensitive topics which you follow up with colleague Zine el Abidine Bou Ashah:

[Ashah] In his meeting with the press, Abdelhamid Mehri explained the FLN attitude toward a topical issue: the use of mosques by political parties for political and electoral activities, which as he said constitute a danger to the democratic march. Consequently, the FLN believes party activity should be kept out of the mosques. In the events of insistence, and if it proved that political concord is impossible, the FLN believes the matter should be solved through a plebiscite. The Algerian people alone should decide this matter.

This FLN attitude followed the march called for by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] for the coming Friday. Abdelhamid Mehri said: It is true that the use of mosques by some political parties is not new; rather it has been developing steadily, and has assumed an acute form while we are on the eve of the elections. He explained the issue is not submitted through an artificial separation of Islam with its comprehensive nature from politics, inasmuch as it is a narrow electioneering party activity. Regarding the march called for by the FLN, he explained that the objective is to make the people aware of the seriousness of this trend: the use of mosques for party activity, and that we can find means for responsible political dialogue with all the parties, including the FIS.

Concerning the phenomenon of violence which has begun to widen, Mehri said we do not categorically hold a certain side responsible for it, but the language of violence and the language of excitment are two factors which facilitate the phenomenon of violence. Concerning the attitude of the FLN to the appeal of the Islamic Call League, Mehri said it is a call for wisdom and we consider it an appeal which falls within the context of the preservation of elementary peace and prudence, but it came in the form of solving a quarrel between the FLN and [words indistinct].

Appeals Made To Cancel 20 Apr Marches

LD1904094790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] After the appeal made by the Islamic Call League for the cancellation of tomorrow's political marches, the Association for Guidance and Reform, led by Mr. Nahnah, has also appealed for restraint and the preservation of the nation's unity. Moreover, in an attempt to persuade the Islamic Salvation Front to abandon the idea of staging tomorrow's march, 12 political parties held a meeting in the capital last night.

AL-SHA'B this morning reported that the president of the Islamic Salvation Front refused to cancel tomorrow's march.

FLN [National Liberation Front] Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri said for his part at a news conference yesterday that his party's march is aimed at making the people aware of the need to keep narrow political, partisan, and electoral activities out of the mosques.

Parties Call for Dialogue, Warn Against Threats

LD1804141590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

A statement by the Islamic Call League, led by Shaykh Ahmed Sahnoun, says that it would be wise to confront

manouvers and to close the door to the enemy which would like to tear apart the Algerian nation. The administrative bureau of the Islamic Call League urges all sides to keep calm and to prevent the enemy from exploiting opportunities. It also urges the Algerian people to be cautious of provocations. The League also calls on the Islamic Salvation Front to study the situation with insight and wisdom with a view to reassessing the time, place, and method regarding the march planned for Friday, 20 April.

The League urges the National Liberation Front [FLN] to abandon the decision regarding national marches which may be exploited by whoever would like to fish in murky waters. Finally, the Islamic Call League urges officials to resolve the nation's problems through dialogue and wisdom, because the language of force cannot contribute effectively to taking our country out of the multiclawed crisis which is dug into our nation's body.

Other political parties have voiced their concern over these developments and their consequences which may threaten the democratic process in Algeria.

Before reviewing the opposition parties' stands, we would like to point out that FLN Political Bureau held an emergency session today to study the political developments.

Both wings of the Social Democratic Party have called for dialogue. Abderrahmane Adjerid's wing has called on all political parties to hold a joint news conference to express the democrats' stands regarding the tragedy that is being prepared, the consequences of which cannot be ascertained. Hamidi Khodja's wing calls on all democratic forces to engage in a debate on joint action to thwart all attempt to Lebanonize Algeria.

The Party of Algerian Renewal has issued a statement which says that calls to exercise pressure on the street or to paralyze the economy, or any intention to avenge or hasten to take power, would be, under the current conditions, tantamount to national destruction and an indescribable crime against the Algerian people as a whole. [passage omitted]

Parties Share Concern Toward Political Rallies

LD1804200390 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Regarding the meeting of political parties held last night at the Aurassi Hotel, called during the day by the PSD [Social Democratic Party], [words indistinct], only five groups out of the (?ten) the party were able to contact were at the meeting, (Youssef Tahar) reports. They were the APUA [Popular Association for Unity and Action], the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria], the PAGS [Socialist Vanguard Party], the Man is Capital Party, OST [Socialist Workers' Organization], the PSD, of course, and a representative of the Human Rights League.

In the speeches there is not the same political approach, nor the same tone, but there is a shared concern, that in the current situation the demonstrations planned for Friday by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Party] and the FLN [National Liberation Front] could lead to clashes. The result is that the meeting selected a delegation headed by Mr. Boutaleb of the Human Rights League, a delegation which is charged with carrying out two missions simultaneously, one with regard to the FIS and the FLN and the USTA [General Union of Algerian Workers] to ask them to postpone their actions—at least for the duration of the month of Ramadan to safeguard the interests of the citizens, the country, and [words indistinct] the survival of democracy—and the other with regard to all the other political groups which were not able to be present yesterday, to invite them to attend another meeting this evening.

'Sharp Conflict' among Trade Union Leaders

LD1804135990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Regarding the strike which is alleged to have been called by the General Union of Algerian Workers against the government's action, EL-MASA has learned from close trade union sources that a sharp conflict is taking place between the central trade union leaders. EL-MASA says that it is not easy to know who represents whom, and which trend represents which. EL-MASA has also learned that the statement released in the past few days represents only half of the [union] council; as only 59 out of 120 attended the meeting, and those voting on the statement were less than two-thirds of the 59. This means that the statement represents the views of a weak wing which forced its views on the absent majority. There were only five members of the national secretariat at that meeting.

The lobby which has grown in the trade union central body has forced the central body not to discuss the proposals made by the government to the union last September, and to reject them. EL-MASA says that the same lobby is now moving on behalf of the national council, although it does not represent the majority of the council's members.

EL-MASA has learned that the door for negotiations and dialogue between the government leadership and the central union has not been shut, and that the two sides agreed to meet at the end of April. However, some people in the central union have refused to continue the dialogue and have even demanded that the government must not deal with the union as a social partner. It has also been learned that the postponement of the debate on the bill on trade union rights at the National People's Assembly was made on the basis of the government's approval, following the central union's insistence. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Skirmishes' at Israeli Border; No Casualties

JN1804180490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian Government today rejected an Israeli offer to send an Israeli military delegation to Cairo with the aim of containing the recent crisis between Egypt and Israel.

Over the past two days, Egyptian-Israeli borders witnessed military skirmishes between the two sides when Egyptian forces intercepted an Israeli military patrol attempting to cross the Egyptian borders on the pretext of searching for some infiltrators. The Israeli forces ignored the Egyptian forces' warning to them to retreat, which resulted in some skirmishes, but there were no casualties. Accordingly, Cairo sent a strongly-worded protest to the Israeli Foreign Ministry warning against any Israeli transgression. Cairo said it would strongly respond to any attempt to cross Egyptian borders for any reason whatsoever. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid on Area Disarmament, Regional Ties

NC1804155590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that President Mubarak's proposal for turning the Middle East into a nuclear-free zone has international support. He added that he sent a message to the UN secretary general yesterday requesting a discussion of this issue on condition that all states in the region commit themselves to achieving this goal and that a system be established to control the various types of these weapons.

Speaking at a news conference this afternoon, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that stopping the arms race in the Middle East is essential to reducing tension and achieving peace. He said that Egypt will continue its contacts with the Security Council's permanent members to follow up on the implementation of President Husni Mubarak's proposal for turning the Middle East into a weapons-free zone. He noted the connection between disarmament and achieving peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the campaign against Iraq is unjust and unfair, adding that Iraq, like all other states, has a right to self-defense.

He also said that Egypt opposes the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories as this violates UN resolutions and the fourth Geneva convention and poses a threat to the chances for peace in the region. He stressed that Egypt does not oppose immigration which is a human right, but added that such immigration should be to Israel and not to the occupied Arab territories and that immigrants should have the right to return to their own countries so that immigration is not a one-way street. He added that President Mubarak will discuss this issue during his upcoming visit to the Soviet Union.

Regarding the new Israeli government, the foreign minister stressed that Egypt will deal with any government for the sake of giving impetus to the peace process and that Egypt is ready to attend the tripartite meeting with Israel and the United States in preparation for holding the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The foreign minister also said that Egypt has good relations with the Soviet Union and that the two countries are in constant touch. Egypt also has good relations with the United States, he added.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt and Sudan have identical interests and that Egypt is working to achieve stability in Sudan and helping to reach a solution to the problem in the south. He added that Egyptian-Syrian relations have resumed their normal course following the exchange of ambassadors and that Egypt welcomes former president Carter's declaration about Syria's willingness to join the peace process.

Mubarak: Decree on Ambassadorial Appointments

NC1804181890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree approving the appointment of a number of ambassadors and heads of mission. The decree appoints 35 ambassadors and heads of missions and four consuls.

The new diplomatic action involves the appointment of 'Ali al-Qaraqasi as consul in London, Muhammad Abu-Zayd as consul in Paris, 'Abd-al-Majid Isma'il as consul in Frankfurt, and Jalal Nashid as consul in Bombay, India.

Among the ambassadors and heads of missions appointed by the decree are the following: 'Ala' Barakat to Madrid; Majdi 'Umar to Khartoum; Muhammad Shararah to the Hague; Muhammad al-'Azazi to Thailand; Ibrahim Yusri to Algeria; Anis Ni'matallah to Mexico; Mustafa al-Diwani to Uruguay; Ibrahim 'Allam to Sweden; Sayyid Shalabi to Oslo; Mahmud Murtada to Berlin; Ihab Wahbah to Bucharest; Amin Yusri to Malta; Jamal Bitar to Brazzaville; Samih Darwish to Kampala; 'Ala' 'Abd-al-'Alim to Burundi; Fu'ad Yusuf to Lagos; Marwan Badr to Nairobi; 'Ismat al-Qadi to Malawi; Jamal al-Dayf to the Maldives; Sayid Sulayman to Mozambique; 'Adil Sharaf-al-Din to Lusaka; Kamal Bahjat to Manila; al-Sayyid Rajab to Singapore; 'Adil al-Hadari to Canberra; 'Ali Hijazi to Sanaa; 'Umar 'Amir to Guinea-Bissau; and Faruq Hilmi to Hong Kong.

Communications Minister Comments on Satellite

NC1804132090 Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Shibin al-Kawm, lower Egypt, April 18 (MENA)—Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communication, said today the Arab satellite will be operated in October to link Egypt with Arab countries via television and broadcasting circuits.

The minister said that Arab ministers of transport will meet in Cairo in October, within the framework of the Arab League, to discuss means of developing means of transport among Arab countries.

He added that an allocation of 250 million [Egyptian] pounds has been made to improve roads.

The railway line between Asyut and Luxor, in upper Egypt, will be doubled by the end of this year. The number of trains serving on this line will be doubled as a result, the minister said.

Paper Says U.S. Prefers Limited USSR Role

PM1804160190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Apr 90 p 2

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from sources in Cairo that the United States rejected a Soviet proposal for Moscow's and Washington's joint international sponsorship of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue expected to be held in Cairo after the new Israeli Government is formed and after the tripartite meeting comprising the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state is held in accordance with James Baker's plan.

The sources said that Washington refused to make any amendments to James Baker's plan so as to include a new initiative by Moscow and Washington [as published] that would stipulate Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's joining of the tripartite Egypt-Israel-U.S. meeting in order to discuss the arrangements concerning the organization of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and the election plan in the occupied Arab territories.

The sources pointed out that Baker informed his Soviet opposite number, Shevardnadze, at their recent Washington meeting that the U.S. Administration was committed to the Baker Plan presented to the parties concerned at the end of last year, and that the Soviet Union could participate in later stages concerning the final settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The sources said that the U.S. position on the Soviet proposals proves that Washington prefers the Soviet Union to have a limited role in the peace process in the Middle East, but not to participate as a partner in the present efforts. [passage omitted]

Libya

Embassy in Brussels Denies LE MONDE Reports

LD1704180490 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The Libyan Embassy in Brussels denies reports which have appeared in the French paper LE MONDE. This daily asserted this morning that Libya was behind the capture of the three "Silco" hostages—the hostages released last week. The Embassy rejects the accusations: Libya was not involved either directly or indirectly in this affair; Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's appeal was simply the result of his belief in human rights. Furthermore, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi wished thus to affirm the humanitarian values of Islam, end of quotation.

Sudan

Ambassador to London on Recent Cabinet Reshuffle

AB1804075890 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 17 Apr 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] People in Sudan are still trying to figure out if last Tuesday's [10 April] cabinet reshuffle is a kind of shift by the military government. All political parties have been banned since General al-Bashir came to power last June, but the three new men appointed last week had all served in previous Sudanese governments. Two were members of the overthrown Ummah-Democratic Party coalition, while the third had been a minister under ex-President Numayri. Efok Sofarana has been talking to Sudan's London ambassador, (?Rashid Abu Shamar). He asked him what the thinking is behind the reshuffle:

[Begin recording] [Shamar] You see, the revolution is now passing through a new phase. It has completed its initial phase and it is natural now to make a reshuffle or to make amendment so as to face the new phase. But I tell you, those ministers who lost their ministerial jobs does not mean that they are kept quite away from the revolution [sentence as heard]. On the contrary, they are very close, those people, they are very close, and even some of them are given other and very important and very sensitive portfolios like retired General Muhammad al-Hadi Ma'un al-Murdi, who has been appointed as a political adviser for the head of state, which is a very important portfolio. Others also are very close to the revolution. But on the other hand, I told you that it is a new phase and this new phase has to be faced also with some kind of amendment and reorientation. And this is quite natural, you see.

[Sofarana] One of the criticisms that your government has been accused of is that it is being controlled by the National Islamic Front. How do you see these changes as a sign of a broad based government?

[Shamar] No, it is not like that. First, probably, I will reply to your main question. And I would like to assure you that this government has nothing to do with the defunct Islamic Front Party. It has nothing to do with that. And even if you would like to take those new appointees with their previous parties, you will find there is a very good balance here, because two of them were affiliated to two political parties and the third one has no affiliation with the Islamic Front Party. So, if you want even to measure it like that, it looks like there is a very good balance now. There is a very good balance. But those people were taken for their own personal merits, actually, not because they were previous party men or whatever it is.

[Sofarana] But some of these people are known to be sympathizers of the National Islamic Front.

[Shamar] I have no idea, and I cannot say that all those people are sympathizers of the Islamic Front Party, because those people previously had their own parties. One of them was Ummah Party. This is a very striking fact which everybody knows, and the other one was the Democratic Unionist Party. So how can you say that those people are affiliated in a way or other to the Islamic Front Party? They are not at all. Because those people held previous ministerial posts on the card of previous and specific parties, and that is the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party. [end recording]

Sudan Rejects IMF Pressure on Economic Policies

AB1604153890 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 15 Apr 90

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] A senior member of Sudan's ruling military council has said the administration will not change its economic policies in spite of pressure from the International Monetary Fund, the IMF. The official, Colonel Salah-al-Din Karrar, who is head of the Economic Committee, said the country's new economic program would form the basis for negotiations between the two sides next month. He did not give details of the program, but he said it would form part of counter proposals to put to the IMF.

Since General al-Bashir seized power in a military coup last June, there have been three meetings between Sudan and the IMF, which wants financial reforms in place to deal with Sudan's worsening economic situation. Sudan is not eligible for further assistance from the IMF because it has defaulted on some of its foreign debt repayments.

Western Sahara

Polisario's Bashir Sayed Grants Interviews

PM1804143890 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 3 Apr 90 p 24

[Interview with Bachir Mustafa Sayed, Popular Front for the Liberation of Saqia El Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario) negotiator with Morocco, by special correspondent Alejandro Posilio in Tinduf, Algeria; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Posilio] What has changed in the Saharan conflict since Perez de Cuellar's visit to the Saharan refugee camps and to Hassan II?

[Sayed] The UN secretary general's visit promises an acceleration of the peace process in the area. The United Nations now regards the decolonization of the Sahara as a priority task. But it also reflects the difficulties that still remain to be resolved, as a result of the Moroccan king's rigid stance. The United Nations' successes in other decolonization situations, such as Namibia, provide a very strong motivation for the organization. There is no justification for this conflict to resist the international trend.

[Posilio] The president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) said afer his meeting with Perez de Cuellar that Hassan II accepts a direct dialogue with the Polisario. How and when will the Moroccan king change his mind?

[Sayed] Our actions are not based on the theoretical changes announced by the king of Morocco. We proceed from an assessment of forces that prevents Morocco from maintaining this hostile attitude and the Saharans from taking any path other than that of peace. We have the support of an international community that is clearly very much in our favor. This visit constitutes genuine pressure on the sides involved, which will culminate in the convening of a meeting of the UN Security Council at the beginning of May. Judging from our contacts with the representatives of Security Council nations, it will result in a crucial turning point in finalizing the peace plan.

[Posilio] At your meeting with Perez de Cuellar, what was said about the Moroccan military presence in the Sahara during the referendum period?

[Sayed] The secretary general discussed with Hassan II both the military presence and also the civilian presence, as well as the date for the second meeting with the Saharans.

[Posilio] Were figures negotiated?

[Sayed] Specific figures were not mentioned, but percentages were.

[Posilio] What were they?

[Sayed] According to the secretary general, the fewest possible forces. I believe, one-fifth of those present there now. The principle of a withdrawal is accepted. However, Hassan is citing this lie, the security slogan, rather exploiting an error committed in Namibia when the South-West African People's Organization crossed the international troops' line. A period of reflection on this topic has been left until the end of this month.

[Posilio] What aspects will be negotiated with the king of Morocco?

[Sayed] The negotiations with Hassan will broach ideas such as the need for a referendum to act as a bridge to permanent peace and lasting friendship. There could also be discussions with the king of Morocco on Saharan independence within the context of special relations. Security guarantees could be negotiated, in all their aspects—military, political, and ideological. There could also be discussion of guarantees for the Moroccan civilian population settled on Saharan territory.

[Posilio] In negotiations both sides have to make concessions. On what points is the Polisario Front prepared to compromise?

[Sayed] Having cited special ties with Morocco and guarantees covering all points, I cannot imagine any other kind of concessions apart from these. We will discuss everything that Morocco can rationally and seriously request.

[Posilio] So how will the subject of the SDAR's independence be broached?

[Sayed] Saharan independence is nonnegotiable. Otherwise it would not be an honorable peace agreement. It would be a surrender.

[Posilio] What progress has been made since Perez de Cuellar's visit with regard to the thorny issue of holding a census?

[Sayed] So far specialists have carried out the task of acquainting themselves with the people and the territory. Now the identification stage will begin. This stage is divided into two parts: identification on paper, that is, correcting names that do not correspond to those on the lists; and on the spot identification, that is, checking phtographs against individuals. Initially this work will be carried out with the aid of representatives of the former Saharan Assembly, who will be summoned by the UN special representative some time this month.

[Posilio] Is it possible now to talk in terms of a definite date for the referendum?

[Sayed] Hitherto the Moroccans have spoken of and set two years as the timescale for holding the referendum. If we succeed in settling the unresolved issues within three months, the UN intervention can become a reality before the end of the year. Then the vote could be organized in the first half of next year and the result could be announced at the beginning of the second half. But if Morocco continues regularly to blackmail the United Nations and replies that there must be undue haste, it will make it impossible to set an exact date for the referendum.

[Posilio] Has there been any pressure from Algeria to accelerate the negotiations?

[Sayed] Algeria has acted along two lines. One has been adaptation to the international situation, with a somewhat prominent role with regard to regional integration, which has entailed the establishment of diplomatic relations with Morocco. The second line has been based on aid to the Saharans, which has compensated somewhat for the loss of Libyan aid. It has never put pressure on us. There have been fraternal, frank discussions and an exchange of impressions and opinions of the international community. [sentence as published].

[Posilio] Does the apparent unity among the Saharan people extend to their authorities?

[Sayed] In the face of the king of Morocco's hysterical exploitation of a situation that occurred in 1989 (the defection to Morocco of one of Polisario's founders, Omar Hadrami) we Saharans are a united flock faced with a hungry fox. There is total cohesion and unity.

Kuwait

Central Bank Governor on Deficit, Banks' Merger

JN1604133390 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 14 Apr 90 p 9

[First of two-part interview with Shaykh Salim 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sabah, governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, by Rida Hilal—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hilal] To face the deficit in the state budget, Kuwait was obliged to make withdrawals from the external reserves. It then began to issue the instruments of public debt. The first question here is how much of the deficit was covered from the external reserves?

[Al-Sabah] No withdrawals have been made from the external reserves to cover the state budget deficit, but public debt instruments were used to cover this debt.

[Hilal] So far, the public debt issues have reached 107. What has been the percentage of coverage?

[Al-Sabah] The coverage was high and exceeded the volume of issues put out for public subscription. A coverage of more than 300 percent was secured for some issues, and in other cases, the coverage was more than 500 percent. Anyone who follows up the statements issued by the Central Bank and published by the local newspapers the next day on the appropriation process no doubt can see that.

[Hilal] Will the issuance balance be raised above the 3 billion dinars ceiling?

[Al-Sabah] The ceiling of public borrowing is 3 billion dinars, whereas the current balance of the public debt instruments did not reach 2.3 billion dinars. So far, it seems there is no reason to raise the ceiling of public borrowing.

[Hilal] Some believe the issuance of public debt instruments has reflected negatively on the stock market.

[Al-Sabah] Since the issuance of the public debt instruments as of November 1987 until now, we have noticed the stock market witnessed fluctuations during that period, represented by improvements, as well as retreats in the market's performance. It thus can be said the issuance of public debt instruments had no negative effects. This is supported by the fact that the larger portion of the public debt instruments was purchased by banks and other monetary institutions. We knew from the beginning that dealers in the stock market have their personal motives and considerations, which are unaffected by the issuance of public debt instruments.

[Hilal] It also is said the public debt instruments compete with the private sector in demand for domestic savings. What do you think? To what extent has the issuance of promissory notes and securities affected the absorption of domestic liquidity?

[Al-Sabah] It is clear one of the major characteristics of the Kuwaiti economy is it possesses financial surpluses which exceed the domestic economy's absorption capability. The issuance of public debt instruments, therefore, increases the domestic economy's absorption capability. The issuance of public debt instruments—promissory notes and securities—hence has helped absorb part of these surpluses. Hence, there was no competition with the private sector on demand for these savings. On the other hand, these issues had no negative effects on domestic liquidity, especially if we consider the value of these issues is pumped back into the economy through public expenditure. [passage omitted]

[Hilal] In the old days, they used to teach us in the diplomatic institute: Talk, but say nothing and specify nothing. I see you sometimes follow this diplomatic behavior skillfully and say nothing about the banks that will be merged, and when?

[Al-Sabah] This is not diplomacy. The merging of banks will take place before the end of this year. We will not, however, declare the names of the banks that will be merged before they leave the stock market. This is a procedure that has to be followed before merging. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Extends Advisory Council's Term by 4 Years

JN1504180090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Gulf Cooperation Council pool item]

[Text] Doha, 15 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, issued an amiri decision today extending the term of the Qatari Advisory Council for another four years, to expire on 30 April 1994. This decision shall be effective as of the date of its issuance and will be published in the official gazette.

United Arab Emirates

Culture Minister Declares UAE Support for Iraq

OW1804003890 Beijing XINHUA in English 2345 GMT 17 Apr 90

["UAE Declares Support for Iraq"—by Xu Chang]

[Text] Kuwait, April 17 (XINHUA)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stands by Iraq against the recent biased anti-Iraqi campaign and supports all moves by Baghdad to protect its people and maintain its national security and territorial integrity, UAE Information and Culture Minister Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamad said in a recent interview with XINHUA.

"To accuse Iraq of trying to develop nuclear and chemical weapons is a scheme intended to deprive Iraq of

modern technology," the minister said, adding that such media campaigns against Iraq would only enhance tension in the Middle East.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn acknowledged early this month that his country has chemical weapons and will use them if Iraq is attacked. Some Western countries have also accused Iraq of trying to develop nuclear arms, which Baghdad denied.

Answering a question about the situation in the Gulf region, Shaykh Bin-Hamad warned that the situation there will remain grave so long as Iraq and Iran do not reach a comprehensive settlement to their conflict.

He said that the latest developments regarding the Iran-Iraq issue, including the declaration by both Iraq and Iran that they were ready to resume peace negotiations under the supervision of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, were positive signs.

Shaykh Bin-Hamad pointed out that his country supports efforts which are intended to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 for reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace between the two Gulf countries.

Iran and Iraq halted their eight-year Gulf war in August 1988 under a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire. But peace talks held between the two sides since then have failed to achieve any substantial results.

Talking about the Middle East peace issue, the UAE minister said that failure to make any headway in the Middle East peace process is due to Israeli intransigence with direct U.S. support.

Had it not been for the U.S. support for Israel, Israeli attitude would have changed long ago, he said.

He said that U.S. efforts for arranging a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue have so far achieved no result because the U.S., being absolutely prejudiced in favor of Israel, seems to be not serious about reaching a just solution to the Palestinian issue. He also warned that the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel will make things more complicated and may bring about negative effects on the Palestinian issue.

He said the UAE is not opposed to people's right to travel, but added that the Jewish immigration should not be at the expense of Palestinians who are expelled from their native land by force.

Some 300,000 Soviet Jews are expected to arrive in Israel during the next few years. Arab countries have expressed grave concern that many of the newcomers might be settled in the occupied territories, driving out more Palestinians living there.

Talking about the UAE's oil policy, Shaykh Bin-Hamad said the Emirates, a member state of the 13-nation Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), advocates maintaining the interests of both oil producers and consumers and calls for the adherence by all the OPEC member states to their respective production quotas.

Answering a question about the UAE's strategy of developing its economy, Shaykh Bin-Hamad said his oil-rich country is seeking to diversify the sources of its income by concentrating on economic sectors other than oil production.

On the possibilities of establishing a Gulf common market, Shaykh Bin-Hamad admitted that it is not easy to set up such a market, citing difficulties in unifying customs duties and regulations. But he voiced optimism about the establishment of such a common market, pointing out that the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), of which the UAE is a member, has been making efforts for this purpose.

Yemen Arab Republic

Muslim 'Fundamentalist' Declares 'War' on Unity

JN1504130290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Zaydani, head of the Islamic fundamentalist stream in North Yemen, has declared war on unity between the two parts of Yemen. He declared his rejection of the constitution of the unified Yemeni state, claiming it refers to shari'a as a major source, not the only source, of legislation. Shaykh Zaydani called on the Yemenis to boycott the popular referendum on this constitution. He also declared what he termed a holy jihad against the group of atheists in the Communist Party of South Yemen, alleging they are afflicted by an imported culture abhorred by the Yemeni people. Unity of the two Yemens is to be declared sometime in November.

Saddam Comments on Binary Chemicals, Missiles

JN1904095290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has reaffirmed we are a nation with the right to live not only to eat, but to fulfill our distinguished human role, as the history of our forefathers has taught us. He added: We also are carrying out our distinguished human duties, not only the natural ones, because we are building strong pillars for a nation that was honored by God to be the nation of prophets and the Koran.

President Saddam Husayn said this while receiving delegations of workers participating in the emergency meetings of the Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions this morning. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's address: I hope Ramadan will be a blessing to you all. We ask God to let us always celebrate Ramadan in dignity, prosperity, and success. We also ask God to let mankind, or those who do not hate the Arabs wherever they may be on this earth, to bask under its auspices and enjoy its bountiful offerings.

Greetings to all Arab workers in their city, Baghdad, and in their country, Iraq. This is because Cairo, Algiers, Jerusalem, Damascus, and the other Arab capitals and countries constitute our homeland.

You have convinced me and the Iraqi people, who are your people, of the soundness of our stand. I therefore will not burden you with terminology and analysis to prove the stand is sound.

As you have told me, and as I have stated in Baghdad and before that in Amman, we have the same human rights as the British, the Americans, the Germans, the Soviets, the Japanese, and the Koreans. [passage omitted]

We have the right to live in dignity, and the right to defend our rights. Any inch of Arab land that has been usurped should be regained. With this in mind, your sacrifices as Arabs in a war they had wished to perpetuate for eight years acquire additional historical meaning in terms of their dimension and impact, when these sacrifices become like jugular veins that meet other jugular veins in the Arab body from the eastern part of the homeland to its western part, from the northern part to the southern part.

Why are some people so disturbed and so blatantly and shamelessly prejudiced against the Arabs? They act this way because they have realized the Arab nation is witnessing a resurgence and renaissance, although in different degrees from country to country—countries that help each other despite the fact they have had different experiments. In the past, the different experiments were a cause of contradictions and conflicts that weakened strength and exhausted resources. The enemies suddenly discover that the diversity of colors and trends and diverse approaches to life do not necessarily give rise to the state of affairs to which they have been accustomed, a state of affairs that always had led to disputes. This time they discovered that diversity constituted a test of which approach was the best, each derived from each one's position and stance but all leading to the same course, which is the Arab nation's interest.

This is the general situation. Their usual bet was that they could coerce Iraq through Israel or someone else, because Israel possessed world experience from World War II [a. .ceived]—a war that lasted four years or more—experience the Arabs did not possess. Then they suddenly found out your humble country, Iraq, possesses an experience of war that gave double the experience of World War II. As pointed out by brother Hasan [Hasan Hajjam, chairman of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions] and brother Haydar [Haydar Ibrahim, Union of Palestine Workers], in the pan-Arab sense, this has become an experience for the entire nation, not only Iraq. This is because our steadfastness and fighting in defense of the values, which you know, were based on pan-Arab standards and principles, not on circumstantial and regional standards or limited strategic standards, for that matter.

The entire West used to admire the Israeli brain's success in applying, dealing with, and inventing Western technology, although this Israeli brain is, in fact, a Western brain—or brains—that emigrated from the socialist bloc. Then suddenly, they found that the Arabs, too, can deal with modern arms to an excellent degree and that they actually have managed this technology and given it a national and pan-Arab identity, as brother Haydar has just said.

This is why they have created such a great uproar over the binary chemicals. They thought they could strike us. Well, let them try. War, of course, means inflicting strikes. We have experienced it. We have the experience, and we know what war means. If strikes are concentrated on one target, that target is bound to be hit. So, if a target is hit, we will build 10 others instead. This is because the plant we are using now is not imported. It was imported one way or another in the initial stages, but now we manufacture the plant ourselves. So, what will their strike mean, and what will they strike when the country itself manufactures the raw materials at home?

They want to strike the missiles we have deployed. Yes, it is true we have deployed these missiles and they are directed west, not east; that is in the direction of Israel. If they strike one missile base, what will that mean? Is it the only base we have built? Our missiles are mobile. Today you see them in Baghdad, tomorrow in Mosul, and the next day you launch them from Basrah, al-Sulaymaniyah, or al-Qadisiyah Governorate. We can launch missiles every hour and from different places. For

each base they hit or destroy on the ground, we will manufacture and build another one.

They imagine the missile factory exists in Bankalah [placename as received], but the fact is, every piece of the missile is in a different place. We had been engaged in a war for eight years, and we know the facts of war. How can a person who knows the fire consumes gold put his wife's jewelry in a safe in the house, knowing that when they burn his house, he will lose the gold? Is it logical to build missiles in obvious places? In every civilian and military factory, a piece of the missile is made. Will they strike at every factory in Iraq, visible and invisible? They should hold their breath and think again. They should place all Arab rights on the table: Palestine for its people, and Jerusalem for its people. If they claim any right from us, we cannot deny rights of others; we are a nation that fears God and abides by human values. If we owe rights to anyone on earth, then he can take them; if we owe him a lash, we will turn our back to him so he can give us one; if he has a right concerning anyone of us—even the strongest among us—he will attain it. But those who take our rights should not imagine we will let them sleep without taking our rights back. The time when they stepped on the toes of the Arab nation without anyone telling them not to—by force of action, not words—is now over; it is a thing of the past. If anyone imagines he can build his glory on the rubble of the Arabs, he is mistaken. If anyone thinks he can achieve the welfare of his people and keep the Arabs barefooted, then he also is mistaken. If anyone imagines the Koreans can develop, the Americans can develop, and the Taiwanese can develop, but the Arabs cannot, then he also is deluded.

This sums up our message to ourselves; a message we believe in from A to Z. Our souls and minds absorbed this message before it bacame a program; it was anointed with blood and gained legitimacy through all the sacrifices you know. We, therefore, cannot change what we believe in. What we belive in is right, and it can be summed up as follows: We are a country that wants to live in the way I mentioned. We are one Arab nation, albeit with various trends and many states. We are one nation, which has the right to live in dignity and pride. Does this reasoning constitute aggression against anyone? This is not aggression, and those who imagine they can perpetrate aggression without retaliation still are living in the past. If Israel thinks Baghdad fears bombs, I say, if this generation is scared, then al-Mansur [Abbasid caliph] may appear and tell us not to be afraid. Baghdad has been struck by bombs and missiles and is experienced in this. Baghdad was the target of bombs and missiles for eight years.

It was attacked for eight years while its children sang for life, nationalism, pan-Arabism, justice, and humanity. If someone thinks if they started a war it would last only a few days, then he also is mistaken. By God, we will not let it be a war of only days.

If they start the war, we have stamina. We will prolong the war. We will allow the Arab who has not responded to the war in its first days to mobilize his potentials and capabilities. If the Arabs do not respond to the war within days, they will respond in within a few weeks. If they do not respond within a few weeks, they will respond in months, and if they do not, we will make them respond in terms of years. Just as Israel imagines it can cross countries to come and strike at Iraq, we also will cross countries and strike Israel. Israel will cross countries, although without the approval of some of them. We, the Arabs, however, have a collective defense pact and under this collective defense pact, the Arab land is one, the battlefield is one, and the armies are one. Missiles do not need land. They can be fired from Iraq. Aircraft need airspace only and no land. Our planes can reach and cover all of Israel. There is no excuse, and no one can find excuses for us.

I would like to explain the characteristics of the weapons we have so you will not see any Iraqi excuses. Our missiles can reach Israel, and our planes also can reach Israel. Israel usurps Palestinian rights but, according to the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries like them, Israel is not the aggressor.

Israel is committing a crime every day, not only through its usurpation of the land, but through its killing of the Palestinian individual. They, however, do not consider this a crime. There are 23 million Americans who roam the streets searching for their daily subsistence in dustbins. Nor is this considered by them as a violation of human rights.

Blackmailing the Arabs, pilfering their funds, keeping some of them barefoot and while many of them suffer from malnutrition, is not a violation of human rights in their opinion, while the execution of a spy who spies in Iraq for Israel is a violation of human rights. Faced with this comparison, is there anything more humiliating than this to the Arabs to incite them to rise against this Israeli, U.S., or British injustice, supercilious attitude, and belligerence?

Brother workers, we must let the aggressor understand that when he carries out an aggression, all of his interests that we can reach will be threatened. Every one of us should act according to his capabilities. Your capabilities are not meager. I know your capabilities are not meager. I have explained to you the capabilities Iraq possesses so you will find no Iraqi excuses when they fail to reply forcefully to the aggressors.

I affirm here that the Arab workers' capabilities are not meager or limited. The workers are deployed everywhere. In any case, we should take into our consideration that everyone assumes a role from the position he has—the leader from his position, the government too, and the popular organizations, trade unions, and political organizations. Everyone assumes a role based on the position they have. When each of us prepares his role from his position, be certain many of the Arab rights will be regained without resorting to shooting. Rights that cannot be regained but with the gun, we must regain with

the gun. When each party defines the course it believes in and proceeds along it, there will be no clashes and no exhaustion of resources.

In the past, clashes used to take place between two parties. They would wage a battle while the foreigner looked on. This or that Arab country used to wage a battle, and the foreigner used to just watch. Now, the threat is as you have described it. I do not want to repeat what our rights are, as you have explained them more than enough.

We have to specify the tasks we are to perform. For our part, we will give you the chance as Arab brothers. If the Israelis strike us once, we will not answer them just once and remain silent. No. If they strike us, we will continue to strike until the remotest capability in the Arab nation is mobilized, to give the Arab nation its chance to mobilize its capabilities. All the way through, we will ask God for assistance and depend on our rights. We wish you success.

Britain Used Spy Incident To 'Incite' Opinion

PM1804153590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Apr 90 p 4

[Interview with Deputy Interior Minister Khalil Ibrahim Jasim by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Shihab] How do you view the present British media campaign?

[Jasim] Regarding the media campaign, faced with that evil onslaught, we feel our country has been targeted for numerous reasons. Zionism in particular is trying to tarnish the reputation of all Arabs, not just Iraq's.

[Shihab] Iraq is being exposed to a media campaign against the scientific achievements it has realized recently in numerous fields. How do you view that campaign?

[Jasim] It is an unjust campaign, and I can add nothing to President Saddam Husayn's address to a group of Armed Forces leaders who defended Iraq and the Arab nation's honor. He dotted the i's and crossed the t's and explained Iraq's policy, not only to Zionism, but to the world as a whole.

[Shihab] Will you be meeting with British officials on the sidelines of your visit?

[Jasim] My program is confined to the conference (on drugs).

[Shihab] How would you assess British-Iraqi relations in the light of the successive crises?

[Jasim] Britain wanted to exploit the Iranian spy subject to incite world public opinion against Iraq—which is wrong. This is because we see Iraq as a whole targeted by Zionism, and Iraqi law is clear on espionage: the death penalty is demanded, whatever the nationality.

[Shihab] Regarding the British nurse: Is there anything new, now that a verdict has been reached against her?

[Jasim] There is nothing new.

[Shihab] There was a cloud hanging over Egyptian-Iraqi relations because of the matter of the Egyptian workers.

[Jasim] There was no cloud. There never has been any organized act against any Arab or foreign citizens in Iraq, especially the Egyptian brothers.

Ramadan, Klibi Address Arab Union on 'Campaign'

JN1804152290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1239 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, the meetings of the extraordinary conference of the council of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] began at the Palace of Conferences today under the slogan, "United we stand, divided we fall." President Saddam Husayn deputized for the opening of the conference Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister.

In a speech he delivered at the conference, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: We view your meeting as a great show of pan-Arab solidarity, not only with Iraq, but also among yourselves. This is because you have realized, by your deep awareness, that the feverish campaign launched by the trumpets of Zionism and the capitals of world imperialism against Iraq, particularly in London and Washington, is aimed against the entire Arab nation and its security, sovereignty, and just rights now and in the future.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: The Strasbourg resolution is one link in the chain of Zionist-anti-Arabism-imperialist hostility that recently was directed at the Arab nation, beginning with the conspiracy of deporting Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine; passing the U.S. Senate resolution, which recognized holy Jerusalem as the united, eternal capital of the Zionist entity; the failed attempts at espionage; the allegations of the nuclear trigger devices; and ending with the farce of the pipes, which were said to be designed for the world's biggest gun.

Ramadan pointed out that since Iraq's manifest victory over the wicked evils of Khomeynism and its repulsion of the waves of racist, expansionist animosity on the eastern gate of the greater Arab homeland, the Zionist-imperialist alliance has been startled to see that the scheme of draining Iraq has backfired on the heads of the enemies, and that Iraq is emerging as an Arab strike force and an impregnable fortress on whose hills the heads of those who are plotting against the Arabs will be broken.

Western media, Ramadan went on to say, began spewing out unjust falsehoods after they lost their agent bases and the homeland was purged of the conspirators' disgrace

and the foreign invasion. The conspirators were further stunned as Iraq achieved dazzling success in launching the al-'Abid satellite-carrier rocket system and surface-to-surface long-range missiles, thus penetrating the siege imposed on the Arab nation to prevent it from possessing scientific and modern technology.

Taha Ramadan added: The intensified media campaign and the pressures aimed at political blackmail are a prelude to creating the psychological and political atmosphere needed to peddle and justify a Zionist strike against Iraq, the way it happened on 7 June 1981 when Tel Aviv, with the assistance of the United States and the cooperation of Iran, launched its criminal raid on the Tammuz nuclear reactor, which was devoted to peaceful, scientific purposes.

The first deputy prime minister made it clear the hostile circles fully realize Iraq does not possess any nuclear weapon, that it is a a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and its installations are regularly subject to inspection and monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA]. Despite all these facts, Ramadan continued, the clamor is continuing, and the fallacies are increasing at a time when the engineers of these rabid campaigns know their hostile Zionist base in occupied Palestine possesses more than 100 nuclear bombs and warheads, in addition to the chemical and biological weapons. They know, moreover, that Israel refused to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and declared its full rejection of any inspection or monitoring of its nuclear reactors in Dimona, Negev and elsewhere.

Taha Yasin Ramadan continued: In light of confirmed information on the Zionist enemy's premeditated intentions to duplicate its aggression on victorious, peaceful Iraq, President Saddam Husayn—may God protect him—has unequivocally and strongly stated Iraq will answer any nuclear Israeli attack with the binary chemical weapon, and will burn half of Israel if Israel dares to undertake such an agression. At this point, Israel's proteges—who created and nurtured it to turn it into an advanced base for imperialism and the arm of aggression on Arabs—were truly driven crazy.

The first deputy prime minister said: President Saddam Husayn has expressed the conscience of Arabism and its free will, which neither fears anyone nor gives in to pressure and extortion. He also has embodied the feelings of millions of Arabs yearning for power and loftiness. Self-defense is a legitimate right for all, guaranteed by the UN Charter, the international law, and all heavenly laws. Why then this clamor?

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked: Do they want to ever humiliate our nation? Don't they allow Tel Aviv to acquire and do whatever it wants at a time when they say no to the legitimate Arab aspiration for further science, knowledge, and progress?

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that aside from their deviation—from truth, justice, and objectivity—political hypocrisy, discrimination in dealing, and double standards severely harm relations among countries, endanger security and stability, and disturb world peace.

The Arabs are an old, great nation that has done a great favor to mankind in the fields of knowledge, progress, and noble values. This nation rejects any trusteeship by anyone, regardless of his nationality or motto.

The first deputy prime minister said: As for the false concern over peoples' peace and the fear of weapons of destruction, we would like to remind the European parliamentarians—who slipped into the quagmire of Zionism and animosity against the Arab nation—of President Saddam Husayn's call on 16 February 1982 to clear the Middle East region of nuclear weapons. He repeated this during his talks with the U.S. members of Congress when he called for banning all weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear, chemical, or bacteriological, along with an agreed upon effective and neutral observation system.

Taha Yasin Ramadan indicated the unjust and suspect European Parliament's decision was based on a host of lies that do not befit the representatives of the European nations to repeat like parrots without possessing a single cogent or documented piece of evidence supporting their allegations. That bad decision also lacked balance, objectivity, and neutrality, and did not leave the one issuing it a chance for confirmation, scrutiny, or review. The European parliamentarians thus stood in line with those harboring racist enmity toward Iraq and the entire Arab nation and in a manner harming the Arab-European dialogue and cooperation.

The first deputy prime minister said: We frankly and publicly declare President Saddam Husayn's Iraq will not succumb to extortion; nor will it be hindered by any decision whatsoever from pursuing its persevering efforts for a boom and progress in defense of its sovereignty and the Arab nation's rights throughout the greater Arab homeland. Iraq will continue, as always, to be loyal to its principles, ethics, and commitment to supporting the Palestine question, the intifadah of the heroic stone-throwing generation against the Zionist Nazis, and the Palestinian people's glorious struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

In a speech at the start of the opening session, Hilal Bin-Ahmad Lutah, chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council, called for pooling sincere Arab efforts to confront the wild and unjust campaign that paves the way for a vicious plot reminiscent of the story of the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956.

He indicated this large-scale campaign, which requires a unified Arab stand to protect the Arab nation from the dangers surrounding it, has coincided with the U.S. Senate resolution that considered Jerusalem a unified capital of Israel. This, he said, was a new full bias toward Israel, a violation of the international law, human rights, and the resolutions of both the UN Security Council and

the UN General Assembly, and an encouragement of the Zionist entity to continue its occupation of the Arab territories and its plan to settle the Jewish immigrants there as a consecration of its abominable occupation of these territories.

The chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council strongly denounced the European Parliament's recent anti-Iraq resolution. He described it as a perverse decision that reflects the extent of the European Parliament's submission to Zionist pressures.

This resolution, he added, is one chapter of an exposed play that was authored, directed, and propagated by Zionist and imperialist circles, with the help of the Zionist entity. The clear aim behind this play has been to besiege Iraq and prevent it with all means from attaining its natural right to scientific advancement, technology, and the building of self-capabilities.

Hilal Bin-Ahmad Lutah asserted the conspiracy does not target Iraq alone, but the entire Arab nation, because Iraq's strength is a strength for all the Arabs. The Arab peoples and governments, therefore, have unequivocally and firmly declared their support for Iraq in the view that any aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the entire Arab nation.

In conclusion, Bin-Ahmad called for a unified, strong Arab stance to face these challenges. He also hailed fraternal Iraq's constant stance toward peace, which Iraq has been keen to declare since the war years in order to establish peace with Iran and the entire region.

Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, then delivered a speech expressing his pride in participating in this conference, conducted for the sake of an important, grave pan-Arab issue represented in the unjust allegations and threats against Iraq's security and sovereignty.

Chedli Klibi added: The history of the Arab-Zionist conflict has proven throughout successive decades that Israel has been lying in wait for any aim the Arab nation seeks to achieve to enhance its strength and might.

This, Chedli Klibi continued, is not limited to political aims, such as unity, the liberation of the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their soil. It extends to the expansion of Israel's aggressive actions to infringe upon other inalienable rights recognized by all the countries of the world, such as the right to development, to benefit from scientific progress and industrial development, and the legitimate right to come to the defense of the homeland.

The Arab League secretary general added: The enormous efforts by Iraq in the area of development, under the leadership of President Sadam Husayn, are a source of pride, especially since these efforts did not stop during the fierce war fought by Iraq in defense of its territories and an important part of the Arab homeland, from which Iraq emerged victorious and more determined to devote itself to the battle of development and prosperity, through which nations achieve their strength and invincibility.

Klibi made it clear when technological development achieved an advanced stage in Iraq, Israeli planes raided the Iraqi nuclear reactor in July 1981, although the reactor was devoted to peaceful purposes—this is confirmed by the IAEA.

Klibi further stated that today's conspiracy, into which the Israeli Mosad has drawn the British and U.S. intelligence services and whose filthy pages were revealed one after another, is aimed at reversing facts and falsifying truths to the extent of saying electric capacitors are devices for nuclear explosion, and that pipes to be used for a petrochemical plant are parts of huge guns.

Chedli Klibi said the anti-Iraq campaign continued, despite the fact the experts who were asked to participate in the investigations did not dare to adopt these fabrications. This is because the campaign basically is aimed at preparing the Western public opinion for the severing of cooperation with Iraq and depriving it of the sources of Western technology so as to impede the development process in this country, which has achieved great progress. He added this campaign also is aimed at convincing public opinion of the legitimacy of a possible Israeli aggression against Iraq.

The Arab League secretary general added: To prevent the misleading campaign from influencing the public opinion in the manner hoped for by Israel, and to test Israeli intentions on the international level once again, President Saddam Husayn proposed all mass destruction weapons in the Middle East be removed, and all nuclear installations in the region be placed under the supervision of the IAEA.

Klibi described that proposal as an explicit, practical assertion of Iraq's peaceful intentions, clean development plans, and honest quest for scientific and technological advancement.

The Arab League secretary general affirmed the Arab states' respect for the principles of international law and their continued endeavor to achieve a durable peace proceed from their belief in the need to build the current world political order based on equal relations, mutual interests, and all peoples' rights to defend their security and enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

Klibi added: Hence the Arab states, including Iraq, were eager to maintain and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with all the world states. Thus, this anti-Iraq campaign, in which British and U.S. quarters were involved, could harm the Arab relations with them at a time when our nation, as well as all the world peoples, are hoping international detente between the two superpowers will serve as the beginning of a new human era that paves the way for a new world political order based on those lofty principles.

Klibi concluded his speech by urging all the Arab countries to respond to the political terrorism being perpetrated against Iraq and, consequently, against the entire Arab nation. He called for reviving Arab solidarity and placing the Arab nation's rights and interests above all other considerations.

In his speech, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said current U.S. statements and actions on issues pertaining to pan-Arab security and the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland certainly arouse the Arabs' concern and vigilance. Among these actions was the Americans' repeated statements in support of Soviet Jewish emigration, which represents a new wave of emigration and settlement at the expense of our Palestinian people and their right to live in peace on their land.

He added the increasing U.S. support for the Zionist entity from the strategic store of weapons represents a grave, impending danger, and the nation should be ready to confront it with all the material and moral resources in its possession. Our nation is capable of doing so once it adopts serious and firm positions stemming from its supreme interests. Such a condition had really existed in all cases in which our nation rose up to confront events.

He added the British, American, and Zionist campaign against Iraq began when Iraq, exercising its national right and exercising an act within the purview of its sovereignty and internal affairs, executed British-Zionist spy Bazoft in defense of its national and pan-Arab security. This execution was the reason for the exposure of the old malice of British colonialism, which continues to believe Iraq is a protectorate within its domination that can be led in whatever way Britain likes. He stressed Iraq has its own independent opinion, whether on the level of domestic options or that of foreign relations. It deals with states with balance and equality, and respects others' rights and options, thus proceeding from its firm desire to promote world peace and stability and renounce the use of military force in solving conflicts among states.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih added that war with Iran came to a halt on 8 August 1988, when Iran accepted UN Security Council Resolution No. 598. Direct negotiations began under the auspices of the UN secretary general and his envoy Eliasson, but these negotiations did not lead to the desired progress or implementation of the resolution. There was stumbling due to Iran's failure to abide by the clauses of the resolution as drafted. It also obstructed the exchange of prisoners of war and withdrawal to internationally-recognized borders. We therefore call for and work toward solving this humanitarian problem of prisoners according to international law and the Geneva Convention on prisoners. This, in turn, will bring about rapprochement between the two negotiating parties.

He touched on the peaceful initiatives President Saddam Husayn presented in his historic speech on Army Day this year, which called for holding direct talks betweeen the two sides in Baghdad and Tehran, opening up airspace for civilian flights, and allowing the two sides to visit the holy shrines. He said this initiative stresses the principle of Iraq's good intentions and opens new horizons for joint understanding and solving all war problems between us as two neighborly states—it is our destiny to remain neighbors.

Discussing the dimensions of the British, American, and Zionist campaign, he said Iraq's purchase of raw materials and spare parts for the technological university was depicted as an operation of smuggling nuclear weapons materials and detonation devices, although they know we do not possess such weapons, and that we are a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at a time when the Zionist entity possesses nuclear weapons and has not signed this treaty. It is also not subject to the IAEA's scrutiny and inspection.

He stressed the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation want to bar us from all means of progress and development and prevent access to all means of knowledge. Britain therefore decided to deport the Iraqi students studying at British universities following the execution of spy Bazoft as a measure hostile to all that serves scientific development in the Arab homeland. Their grudge has spread to everything, even students on scholarships.

Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih affirmed these people do not want this nation to rise. They are depriving us of all the methods of progress and development from which they and Israel benefit. In fact, they look at the Arabs in a derogatory manner—as a nation incapable of developing and successfully coping with the commitments of modern technology and science. This is the new chauvinism the Zionists excel at and spread around.

He affirmed the communique issued by the European Parliament and its contents are an insult to pan-Arab feelings and constitutes a brazen interference in the internal affairs of an Arab country—a member of the Arab League and the UN, which plays an effective and positive role in Arab and international spheres.

He stressed that in addition to all of that, the campaign against Iraq is aimed at giving the Zionist entity the pretexts and authorization to implement its aggressive scheme against Iraq and strike at its vital scientific and industrial installations which concerned them, while at the same time arousing their grudges.

He expressed his hope the conference will rise to the level of events confronting the Arab nation, from the daily crimes perpetrated by the Israeli enemy against the defenseless Palestinian Arabs leading the revolution of stones, to the increasing immigration to Palestine and the campaign against the Arab countries, especially Iraq, and interference in the issues and measures considered to be the right and concern of Iraqi sovereignty, in disregard of all international norms and laws that forbid interference in the internal affairs of countries.

He said the subject of the communique issued by the European Parliament confirms the fact the United States, Zionism, Britain, and the countries that dance to their tune are constantly trying to interfere in our internal affairs and trying to enforce their policies and opinions on us, which serve only their special interests.

The National Assembly speaker called on the Arab people's representatives to respond to such violations of rights to sovereignty, including breaking the law, which is not allowed by international law, norms, and international values. He said: We are confident you are able to set the wise and brave formulations and arrangements which could thwart all aggressive schemes and stop the ill-wishers at their limits.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, a number of accredited heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Iraq, heads of popular and professional organizations and unions, and a number of representatives from international organizations and bodies attended the opening session of the conference.

Heads and delegates from Arab chambers of deputies and parliaments that are members of the APU attended the conference, which will last two days and will deal with the European Parliament's hostile anti-Iraq resolution it recently issued and with taking a united Arab stand on blatant foreign intervention in Iraq and the Arab nation's internal affairs.

Afterward, the conference members conducted the first working session under the chairmanship of National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to discuss the topics on the agenda.

Reportage on Alleged Egyptian Border Skirmish

Egypt Said Taking 'Stern View'

TA1804191890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Egypt said that a border skirmish that involved shooting took place two days ago between an Egyptian Army unit and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] contingent, which had crossed the border in a chase after infiltrators. Although there were no casualties, Cairo took a very stern view of the incident.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that, according to the Egyptian version, Cairo today rejected an Israeli request that an IDF delegation come to discuss the incident. Cairo claimed it had sent a complaint to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

IDF Knows 'Nothing' of Incident

TA1904043390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Egypt has reported an incident several days ago involving a gunfire exchange between Egyptian and Israeli soldiers. Cairo says it happened on Monday, as Israeli soldiers pursued an infiltrator into Egyptian territory. No one was injured. The Egyptians say they are viewing the incident with the utmost seriousness and they have registered a complaint with the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Meanwhile, IDF officials say they know nothing about the alleged shooting incident.

No Complaints to Cairo Embassy

TA1904105690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Israel's embassy in Cairo has received no Egyptian complaint concerning an incident that allegedly took place three days ago on the border between the two countries. The embassy's spokesman reported this to our Arab affairs correspondent, Aharon Barne'a. The IDF also has no knowledge of an incident in which fire was exchanged with the Egyptian Army.

Last night the Egyptians reported a unit of their Army was forced to open fire at an IDF unit that crossed the border while chasing infiltrators. Our correspondent notes, however, that a thorough examination revealed the source of this report was Radio Monte Carlo, not Cairo.

All Planes Return Safely After Raid in Lebanon

TA1904101890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Air Force planes this morning raided terrorist targets north of al-Damur in Lebanon. All our planes returned safely. The pilots reported the targets were hit. This was reported by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Yosef on Party Relations, Baker Plan

TA1804125990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Speaking at the conclusion of his meeting with Rabbi 'Ovadiya Yosef, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said they had discussed political issues and numerous problems that exist between the parties. Shamir stated he had explained his political positions to Rabbi Yosef and had pointed out that under the current conditions, he could not give U.S. Secretary of State Baker a positive response.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reported the possibility of a national unity government with a rotation also was raised during the meeting. Responding to Rabbi Yosef's query, Shamir made it clear he and the Likud oppose such a government.

Our correspondent noted that the prime minister is scheduled to meet with Rabbi Yosef again within a few days. After the meeting between Shamir and Yosef, a delegation of Sephardic mayors and local council heads, affiliated with the Alignment, arrived at the rabbi's house and asked him to support a government headed by Shim'on Peres.

Peres Said Willing To Join Unity Government

TA1804170990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Shim'on Peres today said that he is willing to participate in a national unity government if this furthers the peace process. Peres also said Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's brave words on peace must be implemented into reality. Peres was speaking at the Histadrut building where he was attending a lecture on Labor Party history. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports:

[Begin recording] [Yehimovitch] [passage omitted] Peres opined that the political situation still had not stabilized, and added, almost explicitly, that he would not oppose a national unity government. Here are some of his remarks:

[Peres] I understand the Likud is really against a national unity government. They may cover it up with makeup, but that is not important.

[Yehimovitch] Do you support a national unity government?

[Peres] I am not interested in what kind of government will be set up. I care only about the peace process. I have sat in a national unity government, and I am willing to participate in one again. The issue that interests me is the peace process. Once and for all, people must understand what we are talking about. [passage omitted]

SHAS Said To Support Unity Government

TA1804194790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Council of Torah Scholars will convene 22 April to decide on the movement's political path. But certain details on the decision taken yesterday during the meeting at Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's house with the SHAS Knesset Members [MK's] have been learned. Reporting from the studio is our correspondent, Dan Scemama:

At the SHAS faction meeting yesterday evening at Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's residence, it was decided the faction members would be permitted to meet with representatives of both the Likud and the Alignment and hear their positions, although the movement's future direction already had been decided. Therefore, sources within SHAS told us today, there is no particular significance to Yitzhaq Shamir's meeting with 'Ovadya Yosef today, or to the expected meeting with Alignment leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin.

The decision made was that SHAS would not support a narrow-based government headed by either one of the two large parties; either the Likud or the Alignment. An official announcement will be issued only on 22 April. SHAS is also waiting to see how Moda'i and his faction will behave.

If a narrow government headed by the Alignment and enjoying Moda'i's support is established, SHAS will join the coalition after a few weeks. If this is not the case, SHAS will demand a national unity government be set up and suggest a rotation.

SHAS MK's said there are two reasons Yitzhaq Shamir should be the first to serve as prime minister: First, a man holding such an important office should not be deposed, and second, such a solution would satisfy Rabbi Schach, who wants to see a Likud-led government established.

Before this decision was taken there was a political debate, and disagreements were noted. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef opened the meeting and said that it is clear that a Likud government, together with the extreme right-wing parties, would isolate Israel in the international community. The United States would turn its back on us, and a terrible, bloody war would break out. Rabbi Yosef asserted that only the Alignment could prevent war, and therefore should be supported by SHAS. This statement was opposed by most of the participants, and Rabbi Yosef then asked them what they proposed and think should be done. Arye Der'i said a national unity government should be set up.

The debate was long, and Arye Der'i stood at the head of those rejecting support for the Alignment. He also joined his colleagues in saying a rift with Rabbi Schach and the Lithuanians [Hassidic community] must be prevented. The participants pointed to the fact three members of the Council of Torah Scholars are loyal students of Rabbi Schach, and most of the yeshiva presidents, and the yeshiva students who support SHAS come from the Lithuanian yeshivas, and a rift would lead to a bitter struggle whose prospects frighten the SHAS faction very much.

So, the Council of Torah Scholars convenes on Sunday 22 April, and as things appear today, SHAS will support only a national unity government.

Parties Reject Coalition With 'Extortionists'

TA1904103090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy Knesset factions this morning announced they will not support the establishment of a governmnent based on an agreement with extortionists such as the Moda'i group. The three factions say the erosion of moral standards in the political system in general, and the cynical tricks of the Moda'i group in particular, has reached a point so low it contaminates the public atmosphere, which is dangerous to democracy. This was reported by our correspondent, Ze'ev Kohen.

Injunction Issued Against 19 Apr Likud Convention

TA1804112790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] A Tel Aviv District Court judge this morning issued an injuction against tomorrow's Likud convention. The injunction forbids discussing the ratification of the addition of some 600 new Liberal members to the Likud Central Committee. The judge also banned discussing the ratification of the agreement with the Moda'i faction, unless arrangements are made that will ensure the Central Committee members who have an interest in the new faction do not participate in the vote.

Court Allows Likud Conference; More Debate Due

TA1904114690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A short while ago the High Court of Justice rejected the appeal against convening the Likud Central Committee. At the same time, it stipulated that each Central Committee member will be given a copy of the agreement with the Moda'i faction, and it will be made clear the finalization of any resolution made by the Central Committee will be determined in a special court hearing at the beginning of next month.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 19 April carries a special report by Yaron Enosh adding that "the Supreme Court's resolution means the Likud Central Committee will be able to convene today as scheduled, and to discuss the agreement with Moda'i." The court also stipulated that upon arriving at the conference, "each Central Committee member will have to sign a document in which he pledges he is not

and has no intention of becoming a member of the Moda'i faction in the future, as mandated by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday." Also, "the High Court of Justice stipulated that even if the Central Committee ratifies the agreement today," "the court will discuss and reach a decision on the legality of the agreement between the two sides on 1 May."]

Ministry Spokesman Urges U.S. 'Nonintervention'

TA1904092590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Israel's relations with the United States are characterized by a long tradition of nonintervention in internal political processes, as is customary in relations between two democracies. These remarks were made by Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud in a conversation with our political correspondent, Arye Golan. The spokesman commented on the State Department spokeswoman's remarks that the United States is expecting the government that will be established in Israel to reply affirmatively to Baker's proposals.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem added that the process of forming a new government is taking place in Israel, and it should be expected that no other country, as friendly as it may be, intervenes in this process.

Likud Takes 'Serious View' of U.S. Remarks

TA1904053390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Likud faction takes a serious view of the U.S. Administration statement that a government should be established in Israel that will be able to say yes to Baker. Sara Doron, the Likud Knesset faction chairman, told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen intervention in the internal affairs of the State of Israel, even when it comes from a friendly country, is an infringement on a democratic state's sovereignty.

Settlement Adviser on Current, Future Plans

TA1904090690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 90 p A 3

[By Nadav Shragay and Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpt] Mikha'el Deqel, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs, told HA'ARETZ no attempt will be made in the next few days to found new settlements by taking advantage of the fact there is a caretaker government in power.

Nevertheless, Deqel added, "If the current caretaker government turns out to stay in power for a few months until elections are held, a settlement plan will be drafted according to the policy of the Likud-led government."

Deqel denied reports there are plans to start building in Nabulus and the Jewish Quarter of Hebron in the next few days. "It is a tempest in a teapot brewed by some left-wing politicians in a bid to stir up trouble both at home and abroad," Deqel said. According to him, current press reports remind him of an old Russian joke: If you want to know the truth, go buy a newspaper and read what is written—then infer the exact opposite.

As for reports about a new settlement called Alon, near Kfar Adumim, Deqel said: "This is an expansion of Kfar Adumim, and not a new settlement. A temporary camp inhabited by a few dozen families will initially be set up on the site." [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 19 April on page 10 in a Joshua Brilliant article adds: "Settlement officials are planning to establish yet another settlement, Pe'at Sade, in the Gaza Strip—about 1 km north of the Egyptian border. The potential settlers are now living at 'Atzmona in the southern section of the Gaza Strip.

"Another group, called Eytan, is pressing to settle at a settlement near Jericho manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers. Its representatives said they plan to move to the area on Independence Day, 30 April, "with or without permission."]

Church Leaders Ask Shamir To Evacuate Settlers

TA1904092090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The heads of the Greek Orthodox Church have appealed to the prime minister, in his capacity as police minister, to order the Jerusalem Police to immediately evacuate the families that entered the house in dispute in the Christian Quarter. Their representative told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad the courts already have issued two evacuation orders to those in the building. He appealed to the police on several occasions, demanding it carry out the orders, but according to him, he heard excuses and explanations that it is not the police's duty, but that of the court's execution office.

Our correspondent notes that it seems the appeal to the police minister is a preliminary move before appealing to the High Court of Justice, where the heads of the church will ask the court to order the police to execute the evacuation orders.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports from the north that Muslim and Christian clergymen sent a letter to several foreign ambassadors to Israel protesting what they term the violation of the holy sites in Old Jerusalem. In their memorandum they write that the desecration of churches and mosques has become a regular offense which contradicts the statements by the heads of the state that Israel observes freedom of worship.

Ambassador to Poland Presents Credentials

TA1804160590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Mordekhay Paltzur, Israel's ambassador in Poland, today presented his credentials to Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski. Ambassador Paltzur later told our correspondent Eytan Almog relations between the two countries are now fully normalized.

Sicarii Group Threatens 2 Ultraorthodox Leaders

TA1804120690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Apr 90 p 3

[By Yoram Yarqoni and Mikha'el Rosolio]

[Text] At 0100 last night, an envelope containing a bullet and a threatening letter was found in a mailbox belonging to the Admor [supreme sspiritual leader] of Vizhnitz. The letter was addressed to the Admor, 74-year-old Rabbi Moshe Yehoshu'a Hager, one of the two presidents of Agudat Yisra'el's Council of Torah Sages.

The letter, signed by the Sicarii, warns the Admor against trying to influence Knesset Members Verdiger and Mizrahi to withdraw their resignation and remove their objection to an Alignment-led government.

The case has been assigned to the Tel Aviv Central Unit's Interrogation Division, which has been investigating the Sicarii case for more than a year.

Another victim of the Sicarii was Rabbi Moshe Yehuda Danziger, the Admor of Alexander. A man who identified himself as a member of the Sicarii group telephoned his residence yesterday afternoon and said he was calling in the wake of reports the rabbi is a supporter of an Alignment-headed government, and had even met with Peres the previous weekend. "If the Admor persists with this attitude, it may cost him his life," the man said before hanging up.

HA'OLAM HAZE Updates Fatality Toll

TA1804114890 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 18 Apr 90 p 5

[By Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 15 April 1990, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 573 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 734.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 893 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—647 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—87 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—57 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—102 fatalities from other causes.

West Bank Resident Injured; Curfews Imposed

TA1804092390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] A resident of the Nur al-Shams refugee camp was injured in the hand when he tried to snatch a soldier's weapon this morning. The soldier, who was hit in the shoulder by a stone, chased the stone throwers and caught several of them. One of them tried to grab the soldier's gun; the soldier pulled out a knife and wounded the Arab. The man was treated in Tulkarm Hospital and sent home.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this morning, the security forces imposed curfews on the township of 'Anabta and the al-Duhayshah refugee camp following stone-throwing incidents.

Khan Yunus Youth Killed; School Closed in Gaza

TA1804131290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Razi 'Abd-Rabbu Abu-Mustafa, 20, of the Khan Yunus refugee camp, was shot this afternoon as a riot was being dispersed, and later died in the hospital. His body was snatched by family members. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is looking into the circumstances of the death. A school was closed in Gaza today after students from the school participated in yesterday's disturbances. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on 'Arafat's Visit to Kingdom

Badran, 'Arafat Cochair Meeting

JN1804210490 Amman Television Service in English 2035 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] This evening, Prime Minister Mudar Badran hosted an iftar banquet .n honor of the Palestinian president. The prime minister and Mr. 'Arafat later cochaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry to discuss bilateral relations, the Palestinian question, and developments in the region.

The session was still in progress until the time of this news bulletin.

'Arafat Commends Talks

JN1804213890 Amman Television Service in English 2035 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. 'Arafat today commended the outcome of his talks with his majesty the king, which have taken place at a time when the Arab nation and the Palestine question are facing difficult circumstances. He said the talks dealt with joint issues, namely support for the Palestinian uprising and the need to convene an Arab summit to forge a unified Arab policy. Addressing a joint meeting of the Palestine Central Council, the Palestine National Council, and the PLO's Executive Committee in Amman, Mr. 'Arafat said his talks with his majesty reflected the two sides' interest in consolidating pan-Arab action in view of the dangers threatening the Arab nation, foremost of which is the immigration of the Soviet Jews to Israel.

Mr. 'Arafat briefed the PLO members on the Palestinian leadership's evaluation of the current situation, Israeli threats to establish a greater Israel, and Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. He said the PLO would continue to promote the Palestinian peace initiative, and voiced optimism that victory will be achieved.

[Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 2100 GMT carries a similar report in which 'Arafat is quoted as saying that "his message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and President al-Asad's response to it deal with Arab solidarity and the stance that must be adopted to confront the dangers facing the Arab nation"].

Badran, 'Arafat Discuss Region

JN1804214290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The second round of official talks was conducted at the Prime Ministry this evening between the Jordanian side, led by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and the Palestinian side, led by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. The two sides resumed assessing the latest developments in international and regional events, the Arab stance on these developments, their repercussions on the Palestinian question, and the situation in the region. The two sides also discussed the ways to activate the Arab and international stance toward these events. [passage omitted]

Departs; Joint Talks Reported

JN1904081090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, left Amman at dawn today following an official two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he met with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. The discussion during these meetings dealt with the developments in the Palestine question and all the challenges facing the Arab nation. Discussions also focused on the need to convene an Arab summit, for which there should be suitable preparations in view of the threats to the Arab nation.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the minister of information, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman, and Palestinian officials.

The official talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, headed by His Excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Mudar Badran, were concluded at the Prime Ministry last night. The meeting, which members from both sides attended, continued the talks on mutual appraisal of important events relating to the Palestinian question, bilateral relations, and Arab and international events. The talks were conducted in an atmosphere of team spirit, great responsibility, and with a common view of the one march.

The talks confirmed the need to reactivate the Joint Jordanian- Palestinian Committee as an executive instrument for this joint fraternal effort, which covers all aspects of cooperation and coordination in matters of mutual concern—whether in political action to serve the Arab peace effort or to serve the sons of the occupied territory in the occupied West Bank and Gaza to strengthen their steadfastness on their national soil until they achieve the freedom to determine their own destiny.

The talks also concerned how to confront the dangers of Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories and the influx of Jewish immigrants from the USSR and East Europe to Palestine.

Both sides reaffirmed full solidarity with fraternal Iraq against the unfair campaign against it and emphasized the importance of a unified Arab stance on the dangers of immigration and the unfair propaganda campaign aimed at fraternal Iraq.

The talks also resulted in continuing cooperation in the information field and giving it a new dimension by forming the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Information Committee, chaired on the Jordanian side by Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din and on the Palestinian side by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Information Department. The committee aims, through joint action, to

allow the world to see clearly Israel's inhuman practices and the justice of the central Arab issue—the Palestinian question.

The talks reflected interest in the services and facilities offered by Jordan to its brothers, the sons of the occupied Arab territories, whether in marketing their agricultural and industrial products, facilitating their free movement, or enabling them to continue their studies. These services and facilities help consolidate their steadfastness on their land and mitigate their sufferings at the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities, especially in the current phase of the blessed intifadah in all towns, villages, and camps of the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Both sides also reaffirmed the need to convene the international peace conference with the attendance of all the parties to the Middle East conflict and the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council.

The following attended on the Jordanian side: Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of information; head of the Palestine Department at the Foreign Ministry; and the secretary general of the Interior Ministry. The following attended on the Palestinian side: Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abd- al-Razzaq al-Yahya, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Muhammad Milhim, members of the PLO Executive Committee, the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Jordan, and a number of Palestinian officials.

King Husayn Meets JCP Leadership 15 Apr

JN1704073190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—In what was viewed as "a gesture of national reconciliation," His Majesty King Husayn met Sunday [15 April] night the leadership of the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) for the first time since the party's inception in the early fifties.

"We believe that the historic barrier between us has been removed," declared JCP political bureau member 'Isa Madanat on Monday. "The ice has been broken," he said.

Madanat, who is the only Communist member in the Lower House of parliament, described the one hour and a half meeting "as very positive."

The meeting followed earlier consultations between JCP party leaders and senior palace officials which had led to the participation of a communist representative in the Royal Commission entrusted with drawing up the proposed national charter to regulate political life in the country.

Analysts viewed the meeting as an expected result of the democratisation process and the general shift in the Communists attitude in light of the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe.

As a leading part of the opposition, the JCP had clashed with successive Jordanian governments over policies ranging from the Jordanian alliances with the West to economic and internal policies.

The JCP was particularly active during the fifties when it had vehemently opposed American President Dwight Eisenhower's doctrine and the 1955 Baghdad pact.

The party supported the national coalition government of the late Sulayman Nabulsi and for a short period in the early seventies formed a military branch which fought alongside the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Party members including the leadership were frequently imprisoned while a 1953 law against communism stipulated a minimum of 15 year imprisonment for any Jordanian who is convicted of membership of the party or even disseminating Marxist ideas.

But since 1967 the law was sparingly used, and last January the government presented to Parliament a draft legislation to abolish the law. The legislation is now being discussed by the Legal Committee of the Lower House.

In the past the state had viewed the JCP as committed to topple the regime, something that the JCP leaders repeatedly denied.

During the November's elections, JCP candidates, who stood for parliament as individuals, stressed their adherence to the Constitution.

"We have no problem with the kind of regime that we co-exist with, whether it is a republic or a monarchy. After all there could be repressive republics," JCP Chairman Ya'qub Zayadin repeatedly said during his unsuccessful bid for a parliament seat last November.

Islamic Jihad To Release U.S. Hostage

NC1804163890 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 18 (AFP)—A pro-Iranian underground group Wednesday said it was prepared to release one of three American hostages it is holding in the next 48 hours. Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, in a statement sent to a foreign news agency in west Beirut, described the offer as a "good-will gesture requested by the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran to begin to bring the hostage affair to a close." The Arabic language statement was accompanied by a color photograph of U.S. hostage Jesse Turner.

Further on Islamic Jihad Statement

NC1804171990 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 18 (AFP)—The clandestine Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Wednesday announced it would set free one of three American hostages it is holding in the next 48 hours at the request of Iran.

The group, in a statement sent to a foreign news agency in west Beirut, said its initiative was in response "to insistent calls by the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who are anxious to make a good-will gesture to begin to bring the hostage affair to a close."

The Arabic-language statement was accompanied by a color photograph of U.S. hostage Jesse Turner. Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine has been holding Mr. Turner, 50, and two other American teachers from Beirut University College, Alann Steen, 49, and Robert Polhill, 59, since January 24, 1987.

Its statement Wednesday, which did not say which hostage would be freed, said John Kelly, a U.S. State Department official responsible for the Middle East, should go to Damascus "in the next 48 hours in order to complete preparations for the release ... and to assure its success."

"We are not forgetting the continuing efforts of Syria in this business and we have decided to seek a solution to the affair by freeing an American hostage in the next 48 hours," the text said. Seventeen Western hostages, including eight Americans, are currently being held in Lebanon. Several of them are believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian groups.

Iranian leaders in recent months, while insisting they have no direct influence over the groups, have made it clear they are anxious to see the hostages freed. Analysts in Tehran have said the administration of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani wants to rid Iran of the hostage stigma in order to attract foreign assistance for Iranian economic reconstruction.

Radio Reports Statement on Hostages

NC1804184590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1838 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine today said it intends to release one of the three U.S. hostages it has been holding for three years within the next 48 hours.

In a statement sent to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the organization pointed out that it is making this good-will gesture at the request of the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran to begin to release [word indistinct] hostages. The statement was accompanied by a color photograph of U.S. hostage Jesse Turner as confirmation of its [word indistinct].

Release Expected 20 April

JN1804191990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] An American hostage held in Lebanon is expected to be released on Friday. The hostage is Jesse Turner, a professor at the American University of Beirut, who was kidnapped on 24 January 1987. Diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital believe that the release of the U.S. hostage is the result of joint Syrian-Iranian efforts to release all hostages being held in Lebanon.

It is noteworthy that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last month visited Tehran and conveyed a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian leadership, stressing the need to close the file of all hostages.

Islamic Jihad To Send Message to Bush

NC1804200490 Paris AFP in English 1954 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, April 18 (AFP)—The clandestine Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine Wednesday announced it would set free one of three American hostages it is holding in the next 48 hours at the request of Iran.

The group, in a statement sent to a foreign news agency in west Beirut, said its initiative was in response "to insistent calls by the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who are anxious to make a good-will gesture to begin to bring the hostage affair to a close." The Arabic-language statement was accompanied by a color photograph of U.S. hostage Jesse Turner.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) has been holding Mr. Turner, 50, and two other American teachers from Beirut University College, Alann Steen, 49, and Robert Polhill, 59, since January 24, 1987.

Its communique late Wednesday, which did not say which hostage would be freed, said John Kelly, a U.S. State Department official responsible for the Middle

East, should go to Damascus "in the next 48 hours in order to complete preparations for the release ... and to assure its success."

"We are not forgetting the continuing efforts of Syria in this business and we have decided to seek a solution to the affair by freeing an American hostage in the next 48 hours," the text said.

Seventeen Western hostages, including eight Americans, are currently being held in Lebanon, several of whom are believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian groups. In the photograph distributed Wednesday, Mr. Turner, a computer and mathematics teacher, appeared thin and bearded and wearing a yellow T-shirt.

The communique made no mention of the group's previously stated demand for the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. It said the IJLP had "responded positively only because we have confidence in the solution that has been proposed and on the basis of a verbal message that will be sent to (U.S. President) George Bush. "We are as ready to respond positively as we are for an escalation. It's up to the other side to choose."

The statement provided no details on the "solution" it said had been proposed. [passage omitted]

Soviet Ambassador Meets With Al-Huss

NC1804123290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha has expressed his belief that matters in Lebanon are proceeding toward a solution. He said: We have begun to see the light at the end of the tunnel. He expressed hope that Lebanon will get out of the tunnel eventually.

Ambassador Kolotusha visited Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss today and briefed him on the results of the recent U.S.-Soviet talks. He said: I have been asked to convey the results of the discussions between Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State Baker to the president and the prime minister.

Ambassador Kolotusha added: With regard to Lebanon, both the U.S. and Soviet sides emphasized during the talks their desire for peace in Lebanon and that the national reconciliation succeed on the basis of the al-Ta'if accord. The U.S. and Soviet sides expressed their support for the Lebanese legitimacy represented by the president and the prime minister.

'Awn Officer Negotiating Fuel Deal With Junblatt

NC1804195690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Sources at the Industry and Oil Ministry have disclosed that Major Bassam Khuri, the aide de camp of Staff Major General Edgar Ma'luf, is holding contacts with the (Kojeko) company on importing gasoline. Minister Walid Junblatt owns a majority of the company's shares and chairs its board of directors. These contacts are aimed at reaching an agreement regulating the supply of fuel to the areas under 'Awn's control. The sources added that Maj. Khuri's contacts with the company are taking place through Lieutenant Colonel 'Adnan Sha'ban so that an agreement can be reached providing for the sale of gasoline in the eastern area on behalf of the company. 'Awn group's share will be one liter for every 20 liters of gasoline sold. The company has also pledged to provide sufficient gasoline to 'Awn and his group to meet the requirements of their remaining military vehicles and equipment.

Foreign Ministry, Amal on Shab'a Farms

NC1904083490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has begun preparing a comprehensive file on the Shab'a farms situation in the South. It will then present the file to the United Nations, and submit a complaint against Israel, which has carved off these farms after expelling their inhabitants and fencing the farms with barbed wire.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement warned yesterday that the expulsion of the families from the Shab'a farms could be a prelude to the seizure of the farms by the Israeli occupation forces and the settlement of Soviet Jewish families there. The movement said that what is now taking place in Shab'a could be repeated in any village in the occupied border strip. Therefore, action is required on all levels in view of the dangers entailed in this serious hostile onslaught.

In another development, Israeli occupation forces have forced 16 youths from the townships of al-Khiyam, al-'Udaysah, Kafr Killa, al-Tayyibah, and Hula to join agent Lahd's militia. An Israeli occupation force has searched the al-Wazzani-Kafr Hamam-al-Mari line and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar forests.

In the meantime, resistance fighters have carried out three operations against the occupation forces in Zummarayya, al-Majidiyah, and Anan in Jazzin. A statement issued by the resistance said that there were several casualties in the enemy's ranks. The number of the casualties could not be determined because of a security cordon established around these areas by the occupation forces.

First Installment of Kuwaiti Aid Arrives 18 Apr

NC1804104490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Twenty trucks of food, medicine, and medical equipment, representing the first installment of Kuwaiti aid to Lebanon, arrived at 1015 today.

The Kuwaiti aid convoy was accompanied by Mubarak al-Sabah, official in charge of Kuwaiti foreign aid, and

Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. Mahdi Sadiq, deputy chairman of the higher relief body, as reprsentative of the prime minister; Roy Ilyas al-Hirawi as representative of the wife of the president of the republic; and a number of other officials met them at the Lebanese customs post in al-Masna'.

Israeli Warplanes Raid Al-Na'imah Hills 19 Apr

NC1904091790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0908 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Security sources have just informed us that Israeli warplanes raided the hills of al-Na'imah [south of Beirut] a short tiem ago. Clouds of smoke can be seen over the area. It has been learned that ambulances and civil defense vehicles have rushed to the scene to participate in rescue operations and evacuate the casualties.

[Paris AFP in English at 0915 GMT on 19 April in a similar report, datelined Beirut, says: "The raid targeted the 'Aramun and al-Nai'mah hills that overlook a coastal road some 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of here, where several Palestinian organizations are based."]

RFL on Israeli Raid Al-Na'imah

NC1904095790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided a position held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in the al-Na'imah hills shortly before 1100. Columns of smoke were seen billowing from the targeted area. Ambulances and firefighting teams have rushed to the area.

Second Raid on Al-Na'imah Reported

NC1904110290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out a second raid against a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the al-Na'imah area at about 1230 today. The first raid left two people dead, one of them a Palestinian member of the front. Following the first raid, the Israeli aircraft continued to fly over the area, drawing antiaircraft fire. A state of maximum alert was declared among the Palestinians.

Explosion Kills 3 at 'Strike Force' Headquarters

NC1804101490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] According to security reports, there was an explosion at the strike force headquarters in al-Yarzah at 0930 today. Preliminary reports say that three military personnel died. The strike force commander Captain Antoine Abu-Samrah, Captain Ilyas Sasin, and a large number of miliary personnel were injured.

Al-Yarzah sources confirmed the explosion and casualties. The sources added they are waiting for a military expert's report to determine the cause.

Further on Explosion, Casualties

NC1804132990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn's radio has cited a military source as saying that a shell exploded while confiscated ammunition was being transported to a building in the al-Fayyadiyah area, killing two military personnel and causing material damage to the building. Media sources in West Beirut have reported that an explosion occurred in the strike force headquarters in al-Yarzah. The same sources added that, according to preliminary reports, the powerful explosion killed three military personnel and injured the strike force commander, Captain Antoine Abu-Samrah, as well as Captain Ilyas Sasin. The explosion also injured a number of military personnel and demolished two floors of the building.

Rebels Claim Responsibility for Blast

NC1804191390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] In its Communique No. 3, the Lebanese Army's Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Unit claimed responsibility for the explosion at the strike force headquarters in al-Fayyadiyah today. The unit warned the rebel general, Michel 'Awn, that it will continue to strike blows at him and pursue him in his own headquarters. It warned all honorable officers and enlisted men to stay away from pro-'Awn military concentrations to avoid being hit in the unit's attacks. The Honor, Sacrifice, and Loyalty Unit promised the military establishment that it will remain loyal to its military oath and seek to rectify the deviation caused by rebel General 'Awn and the officers loyal to him.

'Awn To Punish Perpetrators

NC1804125390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The explosion at the headquarters of the strike force in al-Yarzah at 0940 today killed at least three military personnel and wounded a number of others, including Force Commander Captain Antoine Abu-Samrah and Captain Ilyas Sasin. The explosion also demolished two of the building's floors and caused other serious property damage.

A search is under way for missing persons under the rubble. Al- Yarzah sources have confirmed the explosion and indicated several people were killed or wounded. The same sources said that they are waiting for a military expert's report to determine the cause.

Foreign news agencies have confirmed the explosion and indicated that a huge fire has broken out and that the fire is being extinguished by fire fighting teams despite the

security cordon around the area. It has been learned that one of 'Awn's relatives was wounded in the explosion. 'Awn appeared to be very dismayed by the explosion and threatened to punish the perpetrators.

Car Explosion Causes 'Blast'

NC1804135990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] It has been learned that the blast which took place at al-Yarzah this morning was caused by the explosion of a car which was being rigged with explosives inside the strike force headquarters before it was to have been transported to another place. Three military personnel were killed and an undetermined number wounded. It is likely that the young woman who was going to drive the booby-trapped car was killed in the explosion. Strike Force Commander Captain Antoine Abu-Samrah and Captain Ilyas Sasin are among the injured.

Further on Explosions

NC1804190390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Excerpts] According to new information, the explosion which took place at the headquarters of the strike force in al-Yarzah this morning was caused when a fault developed as a booby-trapped car was being rigged before it was to have been transported to a place outside the areas under 'Awn's control. Units of 'Awn's group immediately established a security cordon. [passage omitted]

To conceal what had happened 'Awn's radio resorted to its usual practice of disseminating false reports to create confusion and conceal the facts in the areas under 'Awn's control. After failing to report the explosion for three hours, the radio then reported two imaginary explosions, one in a military car belonging to the Lebanese Forces in al-Dawrah and the other at a Lebanese Forces position in Juniyah. The radio claimed that nine members of the Lebanese Forces were killed in the two explosions. Naturally, this report deserves no comment but derision.

School Bus Attacked on Beirut Crossing; 11 Die

NC1804125690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1245 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] We learned from security sources a short time ago that a school bus carrying pupils from the New al-Murayjah School was traversing the Museum crossing point in the direction of East Beirut. Gunfire was directed at the bus from the eastern area. The bus was set on fire, and 11 children were killed, according to preliminary reports.

Teacher Casualties Reported

NC1804130990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1301 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] We have a new report from our newsdesk. To correct the information which we reported earlier and which we had received from security sources, we wish to report that the bus that was set on fire was carrying teachers employed by the New al-Murayjah School. The bus burned in the al-'Adliyah area after a fuel tanker passing beside it was hit by gunfire. Army sources in West Beirut have reported that the burned bodies of 11 teachers have been pulled out of the wreckage. The fate of the remaining four teachers is not known.

'Awn Blamed for Incident

NC1804183490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] What remains to be done now that the facts have become clear and proof and evidence exposing the criminal have accumulated? What remains to be done is to hold a trial and convict Michel 'Awn. Michel 'Awn and his group alone are responsible for the bus massacre which led to the martyrdom of many innocent teachers and students. The public and all concerned must not be deceived again by the campaigns of distortion and incrimination the 'Awn media are waging to cover up this crime. A few hours after the conflicting accounts of the bus explosion, security sources now possess clear evidence of this involvement.

According to the information available, the bus hit one of the landmines laid by 'Awn's gunmen as it was passing the al-Barbir-Museum crossing toward the Buick area. These sources asserted that 'Awn's group alone is fully responsible for the incident which took place in an area under its control. The sources added that the group should have taken appropriate measures to prevent the bus from passing over the mine. The sources explained that the incident took place in an area which is not overlooked by Lebanese Forces positions, a fact which refutes the rabid campaign of lies which 'Awn's media are waging to cover up the crime and deny the 'Awn's group's responsibility for the death of the victims. [passage omitted]

Today's massacre is no more than another entry in 'Awn's internecine calendar. What is required before it is too late is for justice to lay its hands on the criminal and punish him because the citizens have had enough blood and destruction, lies, and slogans. What attracted observers' attention in the 'Awn group's reaction to the crime is the tendentious and rabid campaign which 'Awn's radio launched against the Lebanese Forces immediately after the crime was committed, an indication that this campaign was premeditated and ready to be launched immediately upon receiving the signal to do so.

At any rate, this campaign is a link in the series of the campaigns which lack any credibility and it seeks to divert the public's attention from the facts which are revealed daily. Informed sources emphasized that the explosion and the concomitant campaign are a clear attempt to cover up the al-Yarzah explosion which took place in the heart of the area under 'Awn's control and constitutes a major setback for his plans. The sources

called on the authors of this campaign to stop trading in the blood of the martyrs and the sufferings of the people because it is time to heal the wounds and find appropriate solutions to end the tragedy.

'Awn Detains Troops, Prepares for 'Battle'

NC1904074790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] In an attempt to prevent desertion, General 'Awn recently detained more than 50 soldiers on the pretext of interrogation on charges of planting explosive devices in military positions.

Meanwhile, in confirmation of Michel 'Awn's intentions, REUTER reported yesterday that 'Awn is continuing to reorganize and train his forces in preparation for what has been described as the coming battle.

'Awn's Police Reportedly Making Arrests in Army

NC1804114690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn's military police staged a campaign of arrests and investigations among some military units personnel during the past 72 hours. This measure was taken after leaflets and directives were circulated by some army officers, noncommissioned officers, and men calling for the need to distinguish between the true image of the army and Michel 'Awn and his supporters.

Reports indicate that a large movement began to emerge within the ranks of 'Awn's armed men with a view to distinguishing between the theft, molestation, murder, abduction, sequestration, and other acts being committed by 'Awn's group and allowed by him, and the military institution which has nothing whatsoever to do with these practices and excesses.

Slogans and leaflets have begun to appear in the 'Awn-controlled areas, calling for his departure, because his departure is the only way to preserve what has remained of the military institution and to save its reputation after 'Awn's policy and practices defamed its name.

'Confusion,' 'Grumbling' by 'Awn Forces Noted

NC1804193590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Reports speak of a state of confusion in the ranks of 'Awn's group, particularly after the military formations and changes in the units at the al-Qulay'at front. The remaining part of the 5th Brigade, which is suffering severe shortages of equipment and ammunition, has been transferred from the 'Ajaltun-al-Qulay'at front to be replaced by elements of the 81st and 83d Battalions of the 8th Brigade, who have been supplied with several tanks from the 84th Brigade.

Signs of grumbling and resentment have begun to appear on the Kasrawan front. After the attacks on and destruction of the 5th Brigade's command in Bikfayya, 'Awn's forces refused to go to the area again and reconnoiter the front. They took over a villa in B'abdat and used it as the brigade's headquarters despite the great distance between B'abdat and al-Qulay'at and despite the fact that the brigade's command should be near the front. The reports add that Brigadier General Salim Kallas, commander of the 8th Brigade, is keeping far away from the battlefield and out of the range of fire on the front, which he reconnoitors from Dahr al-Suwwan and Bhirsa or from Bikfayya.

This situation, as well as the organized thefts 'Awn's officers carried out with some of their men and the raiding of houses in al- Qulay'at and Darraya, prompted some soldiers of the 81st and 83d Brigades to threaten to leave their positions and vacate the barricades if what is happening is not clarified. After receiving this news, General 'Awn summoned the officers responsible for the al-Qulay'at front and instructed them to pay additional allowances and provide aid in kind as a gift provided that every officer on the al-Quala't front be allocated $200 to $500 to guarantee that he will stay at the front and ensure that his men do not withdraw from their positions.

Lebanese Forces Member Killed in Sniper Fire

NC1904075790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen continue to direct sniper fire at the confrontation lines in East Beirut. A member of the Lebanese Forces was martyred this morning. 'Awn's gunmen directed sporadic rocket and artillery fire at residential areas in Beirut and the Kasrawan coast last night.

'Popular Awareness' Signs Anti-'Awn Circular

NC1804075490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] A circular signed by the popular awareness committees, the second in the past days, was disseminated in the 'Awn-controlled areas yesterday. The circular urged the citizen to see that Michel 'Awn has failed in everything he did except in subversion, murder, and lies, that he is a danger to society and man, and that he is the cause of everything that has happened to the citizens. The circular also urged the citizens to determine that Michel 'Awn must leave so that the citizens and the homeland can live in peace.

Syrians To Intervene in Amal-Hizballah Clashes

NC1904060090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Syrian Arab forces are getting ready to deploy in the al-Hamra' district to put an end to clashes which

broke out at about 0515 today between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. The fighting, which involved automatic weapons and rockets, was concentrated in 'Abd-al-'Aziz Street in the Arab Bank area. Skirmishes also took place in the al-Shiyah, al-Ghubayrah, and airport traffic circle areas shortly before 0430 today.

Four Killed in Amal-Hizballah Clashes 19 Apr

NC1904101690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tension prevails in the al-Hamra', Caracas, and Wadi Abu-Jamil areas of West Beirut and in al-Shiyah, al-Musharrafiyah, al-Ghurbayrah, and the airport traffic circle in the Southern Suburb following clashes this morning between Amal and Hizballah gunmen. The fighting left four people dead.

Iranian Cultural Attache's Office Shelled

LD1804120790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Yesterday the Islamic Republic of Iran's cultral attache's centre in Beirut in the Abi Haydar region was hit by several mortar shells and RPG-7 missiles. According to IRNA, the area was the scene of fighting between the Amal and the revolutionary Hezbollah movement of Lebanon. It should be remembered that the Amal movement accused the Islamic Republic of Iran's cultural attache's center in Beirut of giving refuge to the culprits who murdered Ali Abu al-Hasan, the official in charge of the military wing of the Amal movement. The Islamic Republic of Iran's attache in Beirut, while rejecting any kind of involvement in this deed, has condemned the murder of the Amal military official and considered this to be an attempt on the part of the Zionists to distract the minds of Muslims from International Jerusalem Day.

Beirut Judge Subject of Assassination Attempt

NC1904101990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Suhayl 'Izz-al-Din, the Beirut investigating judge, was the target of an assassination attempt last night when gunmen fired exploding bullets at his house in the al-Zaydaniyah area of West Beirut. The glass in the house was shattered and Judge 'Izz-al- Din's wife was injured.

Radio Cites Statement on Hostage Release

JN1804204290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2020 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine today announced its decision to release one of the American hostages it is holding.

In an Arabic-language statement sent to a Western foreign press agency in West Beirut, the organization said its initiative was in response to an insistent call by the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who want to make a goodwill gesture to begin to bring the hostage affair to a close. The statement added: We have not forgotten Syria's continuing efforts in this respect, and we have decided to seek a solution to this affair by freeing a U.S. hostage within the next 48 hours.

The statement was accompanied by a color photograph of 50-year-old U.S. hostage Jesse Turner.

Bush Congratulates Al-Asad on Evacuation Day

JN1804161690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1506 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus, 18 Apr (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received today a cable of congratulations from U.S. President George Bush on the occasion of Evacuation Day. The message contained the following:

I wish to extend to you and the Syrian people my sincerest wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of your country's independence.

Such a commemoration provides the opportunity for contemplating the goals of all countries for their people—peace, prosperity, and freedom.

Good intentions and constructive action between our two countries to solve the dispute in Lebanon, eliminate the threats regarding international peace due to terrorism, and achieve a just and comprehensive settlement through negotiation for the Arab-Israeli conflict will place these goals within the reach of all Middle Eastern countries.

Al-Asad Addresses Clergy on Pan-Arab Unity

JN1704191390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] In the impromptu speech delivered by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad during an iftar banquet he hosted yesterday to honor the ulema, muftis, and men of religion, his excellency called attention to the new dangers threatening Arabs and Muslims. He called for confronting them with a deep sense of national, pan-Arab, and religious responsibility and with an awareness of the lessons of history. His excellency the president said: What is to come is very serious, and we must confront it with a responsible stand, an awareness of the lessons of the past and the dimensions of the battle, and with pan-Arab and national responsibility.

Important developme
a fact we must conside
principled positions a
the changes and facts,
us, and utilize them
pan-Arab goals and ca

nts have taken place in the world—
r, not to change our principles and
nd pan-Arab goals, but to deal with
take from them what is useful for
as much as we can to serve our
uses.

His excellency the pre
history carefully and
attempts to record b
allow only new white p
by our forefathers. He
from the past and de
should understand ou
not be repeated. Th
would not have achie
we had not made mist
us to retreat and be d

sident also called for studying our
with an open mind to prevent any
lack pages in our history and to
ages to be added to those recorded
e added: We have to learn lessons
fine the mistakes, and our minds
r mistakes so these mistakes will
e hostile imperialist onslaughts
ed their goals and dominated us if
akes that made us weak and forced
efeated.

His excellency the pre
empty of us nor filled
those who wish us ev
alone do not achieve
the mistakes of the pa
for solidarity. We w
everyone believes s
everyone, that it is no
and sold, and unless
national and pan-Arab

esident said: The world neither is
only with us. It also is filled with
ery misfortune. Calls and slogans
or build solidarity, and talk about
st does not create a sufficient basis
ill not achieve solidarity unless
olidarity is in the interest of
t a commodity that can be bought
we take positions dictated to by
b responsibility.

Out of our national an
and our awareness of t
we call for Arab solid
aspire to victory, or
defend our nation's ca
failure to do anything
disaster.

d pan-Arab sense of responsibility
he dangers threatening our nation,
darity and we work for it. Let us
at least to steadfastness. Let us
use honorably and efficiently. But
; or to unite ourselves will lead to

We in Syria will confr
retreat. We will try to
Muslims, as well as all
will continue our stea
adhere to our princip
defend them. Our peo
Muslims, friends, an
national and pan-Arab
religion provide us wi
the battle of progress,
record new, white pag

ont the conspiracy, and we will not
win the support of the Arabs and
honorable people in the world. We
dfastness in our position and will
les. We will not retreat or fail to
ple, as well as the Arab brothers,
d enemies, know this well. Our
b sentiments and our heritage and
ith the appropriate sword to wage
development, and victory, and to
es in our nation's history.

It is not the number,
decides to die for the s
by any force. The will
defend their freedom
defeated, and there is
defeat it. Our will is fo
and achieve victory.

but the will, that counts. He who
ake of a cause cannot be defeated
of a people who are determined to
, rights, and honor cannot be
s no force in the world that can
or Syria to remain steadfast, resist,

In his speech the presi
and the muftis, who a
the meaning and virt
president's noble char
position, and his conc

ident thanked the men of religion
also delivered speeches explaining
ues of blessed Ramadan and the
racter, his national and pan-Arab
cern for science and scholars.

USSR Ambassador Reiterates Emigration Stand

JN1904083890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus—Soviet Ambassador to Syria Aleksandr Zotov has answered the following question by a SANA correspondent: Comrade ambassador, as is well known, people in the Arab homeland in general, and in Syria in particular, are deeply concerned about the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, especially their settlement in the occupied Arab territories, which threatens the future of the Palestinian people. Out of the spirit of friendship and tradition of political cooperation between our two countries, I would like to ask what practical steps have been taken by the USSR to eliminate this danger?

Answer: We in the Soviet Union share Arab concern over the expansionist schemes planned by certain circles in Tel Aviv, and we strongly condemn these schemes. In this respect, we would like to inform you of the steps we have taken concerning Israel's illegal practices of settling immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. The initial assessment of Israel's conduct is contained in the Soviet Foreign Ministry statement of 10 February, which considers this conduct in conflict with international law and as leading to the escalation of tension, confrontation, and extremism in the Middle East. This conduct also torpedoes efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Representatives of the Soviet Union have repeatedly explained our position on this issue through diplomatic channels. Our ambassadors in the region were tasked to inform leaders of Arab countries about this on a regular basis. The Foreign Ministry presented our official view to the Israeli Government on two occasions—29 January and 12 March. We have contacted all Arab countries to explain our position. On the eve of the Arab League Council session in Tunis between 10 and 12 March, information on the issue was sent to Arab leaderships and the PLO. At the request of the Arab side, and with a view to consolidating Soviet-Arab coordination, the USSR gave initial approval to receive an Arab League delegation in Moscow, and the date now is being discussed.

We are proceeding from the fact efforts to oppose Israel's policy of settling immigrants in the occupied territories are based on firm grounds of international law and are in line with UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and the provisions of the Geneva fourth convention of 1949. In this respect, the USSR has proposed that the subject be discussed in the UN Security Council. At the Security Council's 15 March session, the Soviet position on this issue was presented, and it is known a draft resolution is being prepared. The Soviet Union, of course, will be ready to vote for this draft resolution, which will suit both the Soviet Union and the Arab countries at the same time.

The Soviet Union is giving great attention to this issue through work with the United States and other Western countries, especially from the perspective of widening the freedom of choice for Jews leaving the Soviet Union. We have stressed our opposition to a direct transport link between the Soviet Union and Israel under current circumstances, although the Americans insist on raising the subject with us. The Soviet Union now is taking legislative action to make it possible for Soviet emigres to return to their country. The USSR Supreme Soviet soon will have to pass a new law on entry and departure; the law will define the aforementioned legal bases. Moreover, all Soviet citizens leaving for Israel are warned against settling in the occupied territories.

As the Soviet Union conveys these views to its Arab friends, it hopes for more vigorous action by the Arab countries themselves to help find effective solutions to developments arising from Israel's practices; and we hope to cooperate with our Arab friends regarding this.

USSR Official Sends Cable on Evacuation Day

JN1804142690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received a cable of congratulations on the anniversary of Evacuation Day from Mr. Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. This is the text:

I congratulate you sincerely on the national day of the Syrian Arab Republic marking the 44th anniversary of the foreign forces' evacuation. The Soviet Union, which supports the redevelopment of international relations, greatly appreciates cooperation with Syria in entrenching international peace and security and attaining a just settlement in the Middle East. For our part, in the future we also will do all necessary to develop and strengthen the many- sided Soviet-Syrian relations, which are mutually beneficial.

I wish you, dear comrade prime minister, the government, and people of friendly Syria prosperity and success.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed on Current Situation

LD1904080890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 18, BAKHTAR—As far as the attempted coup of Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz was mainly and firstly hatched against the policy of national reconciliation, and the political and peaceful solution of the issues in and around Afghanistan, its thwarting drastically paved the way more than ever for the complete implementation of this policy, said Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan in an interview granted on April 13, 1990 to Behrooz Yusufzad, correspondent of BBC's Persian service, in Kabul.

President Najibullah in connection with the recent deplorable event of Herat, said that this was a cowardly and terroristic acts of some extremist elements, which aroused the wrath and indignation of the people and that of the local field commanders of the (?oppositions) against the perpetrators of this [word indistinct] deed, and it neither can avert the process of national reconciliation and the joining of the opposition forces, nor can leave a negative effect on this policy.

As a result of the coup, none of the big or small contingents of the Armed Forces of the country have neither joined to coup plotters nor the opposition, except a handful hoodlums. That's why no changes have been taken place in the proportion of the Armed Forces of the country, pointed out President Najibullah.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], in their proposed peace plan has demanded the convocation of a free and democratic general elections under the auspices of the United Nations organization. If PDPA lost elections than it will go out of the power, otherwise the issue of going out of PDPA, and the state of the RA is neither justified nor practical, remarked President Najibullah. My main program at the moment is the fulfillment of the cherished goals of the suffering Afghan people, i.e. cessation of war and ensurance of peace in our war-stricken society.

This goal can only be achieved when all political parties, forces, and organizations of the country and all peace-loving Afghans become united and "I will insist on the mobilization of all peace-loving forces for achieving this goal." He stressed. Touching on RA's state home and foreign policies, he said it will not be good if it is claimed that the present policies of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, inside the country is ineffective. The declaration of the policy of national reconciliation, creation of political pluralism, establishment of a multi-sector economy, approval of the new constitution and the accomplishment of parliamentary elections free activity of political parties, the signing of Geneva accords, the return of the Soviet forces, adoption of an independent and balanced foreign policy, the provision of favorable conditions for the return of refugees are the gains of the new policy adopted by the RA state. Negotiations with local commanders of the opposition forces, joining of over 80,000 of armed persons to the [word indistinct] national reconciliation, presentation of over 30 peace proposals, establishment of peace front are among other achievements under the new government policy.

The reasons for the continuation of war and non-improvement in the economic condition on the one hand lies in the continuation of foreign interventions and on the other hand in the stubborn and bellicose position taken by the opposition extremist groups and their foreign supporters, not in our peaceful policies, president Najibullah emphasized.

For the return of refugees, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan not only keep itself committed to the provisions of the Geneva accords but have adopted additional measures. The repatriates will not be prosecuted for their past actions and they will be enjoying all the rights as other citizens.

With the establishment of the ministry of repatriation affairs and the creation of guest houses and other facilities, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is allsidedly prepared for the safe and ensure return of the refugees and their re-settlement. Likewise, we are agreeing with the recent proposal of Sadruddin Agha Khan, organiser of the UN human and economic assistance to Afghanistan on the return of the refugees and we are prepared to do any cooperation in this regard, concluded President Najibullah.

Rebel Rocket Attacks on Kabul Kill Five

BK1804141290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 18 (AFP)—At least five people were killed and seven injured, including the wife of Afghanistan's first deputy prime minister, in a rocket attack launched by rebel mujahidin guerillas, sources said Wednesday.

Jamila Naheed Baryalai, the wife of Mahmoud Baryalai, was seriously wounded when a rebel rocket smashed into the National Institute of Social Studies here Tuesday [17 April], the sources said. Mrs. Baryalai was injured in both legs in the attack, which left at least five people dead, including several academics, they added. Mrs. Baryalai, the daughter of Afghan revolutionary politician Anahita Ratebzad, was taken to a military hospital and later transferred to an Interior Ministry hospital, the sources said. Her husband was not immediately available for comment, but independent sources said Mrs. Baryalai is a professor at the institute, which is run by the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA)—the target of mujahidin resistance fighters.

A government spokesman confirmed that a rocket had hit the institute but could not identify the casualties. "Several people were injured and some of them were teachers," he said.

Tuesday's attack came hours after another resistance missile exploded behind the Soviet Embassy compound, the sources said, adding that no casualties were reported in the earlier attack.

The government spokesman said four more rockets slammed Kabul on Wednesday, adding that one had destroyed three classrooms at an Islamic school in the Igdah area. Three children received minor injuries, he said. One rocket exploded in an industrial park and one slammed into a hill, while a fourth hit a residential area but exploded in an empty playground. The renewed rocket attacks came after the Soviet-backed government here claimed it had eliminated mujahidin gunners in the nearby Paghman Mountains.

Last week 12 children were killed by a single rocket while they waited for a bus near the airport. The Afghan Army on Monday [16 April] ended a three-day retaliatory strike that left 82 resistance fighters dead or wounded, according to a government spokesman.

Government Forces Continue Battle in Paghman

'Mercenaries' Suffer Heavy Losses

BK1804151090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 18 (AFP)—Paid militias of the Afghan Government have suffered heavy casualties in the raging battle aimed at clearing rebel hideouts from Kabul's Paghman hills, military sources said Wednesday [18 April].

At least 70 bodies of Uzbek mercenaries were brought to a military hospital Monday [16 April] from the Paghman Mountains 17 kilometres (10 miles) from Kabul while scores of others were hospitalised with severe injuries, the sources said."Many more were injured in the attack on mujahidin camps, and they have been sent to different hospitals in the city," the highly placed sources said. The slain militiamen belonged to a former commander who defected to fight beside government troops for pay, the sources said, adding that the same Uzbeks had helped the regime during last month's failed coup attempt by a section of the military.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to comment on the report that the government side was suffering huge losses in the raging battle, but civilians said injured soldiers were seen returning to Kabul Wednesday from the battle zone. The spokesman, who Monday claimed the incessant shelling of Paghman had stopped, Wednesday admitted that the shelling was still going on in the mountains. "A mopping-up operation is on," he said, referring to all-night shelling and rocketing of the area, which is within the municipal limits of Kabul Province.

Government security posts have destroyed mujahidin caves and have inflicted big casualties among the rebel forces, the spokesman said Wednesday, having said Monday that a total of 82 rebels were killed. He did not mention government casualties.

"It is a well-organised plan. The rebels are encircled from all directions and house-to-house searches were continuing," the spokesman said.

The Kabul regime began shelling the Paghman hills and hitting them with air strikes, temporarily lifted the operations Monday, and renewed the attack Tuesday [17 April] as the rebels continued firing surface missiles in the capital city.

Sources said some 10,000 regular soldiers and paid militiamen were participating in the largest ever military operation in Kabul's vicinity, but there was no official confirmation of the figure.

Mujahidin Reportedly Down 2d Jet

BK1804153090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have shot down one more jet bomber of the Kabul regime in the (Fala Haisin) area of the Paghman valley, killing the pilot. According to a MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] report, this is the second jet shot down in the area in three days. The report adds that intense fighting also continues across the peak of (Pajer) hill in the valley. Fifteen soldiers of the Kabul regime are reported to have been killed and two tanks hit in the fighting. There are also reports of continued fighting between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces in (Bagh-e Davud) and other areas of the valley.

Regime Withdraws Militia Chief

BK1904114190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A report received from Afghanistan says the Kabul regime has withdrawn Lieutenant General (Abdol Rashid Bostan), who was commanding [word indistinct] militia in Paghman. His withdrawal follows heavy casualties suffered in operations in the area.

The report says over 70 bodies have so far been evacuated to Kabul from the area. Mujahidin in their operations also hit three tanks and destroyed several military vehicles. The report further says that the failure of the militia in the area has adversely affected the morale of Kabul regime troops in Kabul and other garrisons.

30 'Extremists' Killed in Kabul Area Operations

LD1904080490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 18, BAKHTAR—Over 30 extremists were killed in a mopping operations conducted by Kabul Garrison around Kabul City today in order to prevent terroristic actions of the Pak-backed elements, reports our military correspondent. During the operation a large amount of assorted weapons of the enemies was destroyed.

'Warmongers' Fire 8 Rockets

LD1904080990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 18, BAKHTAR—One person was killed and three others were wounded as a result of rockets fired by Pakistan backed extremist elements on densely populated areas of Kabul City, reported a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

Warmongers extremists fired eight rockets on Kabul City today. One of the rockets hit a school. Others, which landed on residential houses, have brought about tremendous material losses. The injured were immediately transferred to hospitals. One of the rockets was of cluster [words indistinct] scattered tens of anti-personnel mines which were immediately defused by security organs.

Bangladesh

Reforms Commission To Examine, Update Laws

BK1804163490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] President Ershad has constituted the permanent law reforms commission to modernize and update the existing laws of the country. The government will refer various laws and proposals to the commission to examine them and it will submit its recommendation. The three-member commission with former additional attorney general, Barrister Afzal Hussain, as its chairman will start functioning from the second of next month. The other members of the commission are Retired Judge of the Supreme Court Justice Abdul Matin Khan and former Dean of the faculty of law of Dhaka University, Professor Mohammad Qamruddin.

Talking to the members of the commission in Dhaka today, the president emphasized the need for strengthening the rule of law in the country. He said justice delayed means justice denied and stressed the need for expeditious disposal of cases. With that end in view, he said, the existing procedure to both civil and criminal cases need to be thoroughly reformed or changed to meet the requirements of the time.

India

BSF Arrests 'Saboteurs' at Border; 1 Killed

BK1804130890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] and the Army today intercepted 22 people who were crossing the border into India from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the Uri sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Home Ministry sources said that while 21 people were arrested, one person was killed in the encounter. The security forces recovered from them five AK-47 rifles, five pistols, and some bagful of explosives and detonators.

The sources said these saboteurs were coming to India after receiving advanced training in the use of weapons and explosives from Pakistan.

Troops Kill Six 'Muslim Militants' in Kashmir

BK1804155190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Jammu, India, April 18 (AFP)—Indian paramilitary troops Wednesday [18 April] shot dead six Moslem militants and captured 69 during gun battles in curfew-bound Kashmir Valley as a top Moslem religious leader threatened to lead a mass march in defiance of the curfew unless it was scrapped by Friday [20 April].

A government spokesman said troops continuing a drive against secessionist Moslem militants came under militant fire in the Bijbehera, Anantnag and Kulgam areas, in the south of the troubled valley, triggering fierce gun battles. He said four militants allegedly trained in Pakistan were killed in the clashes and 51 suspects were captured. He did not say whether security forces suffered any casualties.

Two more militants were gunned down by an Indian military patrol, in Kashmir's Uri sector of the border, the spokesman said, adding that three escaped with bullet wounds. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, Kashmir's religious leader-cum-politician Wednesday said that he would lead a mass protest to defy the curfew unless it was lifted before Friday, the next weekly Moslem prayer day.

Msr. Farooq, who is also leader of the Moslem Awami Action Committee, said he wanted people to be able to attend Friday prayers in the mosques, unhampered by the imposition of indefinite crufew across the entire valley. [passage omitted]

Operations Against Kashmir 'Terrorists' Summarized

BK1904050490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Five terrorists were killed, two injured, and 72 arrested in encounters with security forces at different places in the Kashmir valley today. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered. In a sudden and swift move, the security forces today launched house-to-house search in Anantnag and Bijbiara towns and some other villages. Some terrorists fired on security forces as they went to search some hideouts. In the return fire, two terrorists were killed in the village (Bandialapura) and one each in Khamber and Rampura village. One terrorist was injured in (Bandialapura). About 1,700 houses were searched by the security forces in the towns and villages in Anantnag District. Other villages where searches were carried out included Balgiran, (Kwadipura), (Sarnalbala) and (Malchak). Fifty-one subversives were arrested in Anantnag District today.

Security forces arrested 20 other subversives last night in the Uri sector. They were coming from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after training in arms and ammunition. Arms and ammunition recovered from the arrested include five AK-47 rifles, 15 pistols, 11 anti-personnel mines, 27 hand grenades, several detonators, nine packets of explosives, and 900 rounds of ammunition.

Delhi To Ask U.S. To Extradite 'Criminal'

BK1904091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi is moving the United States for extraditing Amanullah Khan, the leader of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, for directing terrorist activities from its soil against India. They are being asked to take legal action and detain him. Announcing this in the Lok Sabha today, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said a first information report has been filed in a Delhi court to get a warrant for seeking the extradition of the criminal.

Replying to a short notice question by Mr. K.S. Rao, Congress-I, the minister said that the government will do everything to safeguard the interests of the country. Sharing the members' concern, Mr. Gujral said it is a serious matter and the government is pursuing it through diplomatic channels, both in New Delhi and Washington. Members cutting across party lines demanded that the United States should be asked to hand over Amanullah Khan to India for prosecution. They also wanted to know how Khan got a visa to visit the United States despite his proven terrorist activities. They were critical of the United States for what they called its casual approach in the matter.

Gujral Comments on Pakistan's Role in Kashmir

PM1804142090 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Interview with Indian Minister of External Affairs Kumar Inder Gujral by BBC India correspondent Mark Tully on BBC 2 "Newsnight" program presented by Jeremy Paxman, following a report on the fighting in Kashmir; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Paxman] But in recent days the war of words has escalated: India has accused Pakistan's prime minister of saber-rattling and reiterated its claims that Kashmiri insurgents have been aided and abetted by Pakistan. But has the threat of war increased? The BBC's India correspondent Mark Tully put that to India's foreign minister Inder Gujral.

[Gujral] India's policy remains to be that we do not want war with anybody, least with our neighbors. It is totally inconsistent with the foreign policy that we have been following from the day we came to office, and that was good-neighborly relations.

[Tully] But do you fear that it will be inflicted on you?

[Gujral] Well, the way they are going about it. My fear is not because they may like to have our state of it, but the type of insurgency they are doing, the type of encouragement, and the intervention they are doing both in Punjab and Kashmir: It has been stepped up; killings of the innocent every day; supply of arms to the terrorists—complete, total support to terrorism.

[Tully] But what evidence do you have that Pakistan is supporting the separatist movement in Kashmir?

[Gujral] My dear man, when you accuse somebody of adultery, what type of evidence do you produce—circumstantial, isn't it? How does it happen, by chance, that all those arms which are supplied for Pakistan's insurgency or encouragement of insurgency in Afghanistan, are finding their way on our side? It is not by chance. How does it happen that so many terrorists who have been caught and given confession, they have said when and what dates they went to the school for training. What more evidence? Even that the type of evidence and the statements made by the leaders themselves—"We are collecting 10,000 people;" "We are subscribing millions of rupees": What for?

[Tully] But, Inder, many people in Kashmir and in the rest of India maintain that what is actually happening is an uprising of the people of Kashmir, because they no longer want to remain Indians, and that the Pakistani role is only a very minor factor in this.

[Gujral] You see, don't forget two things: One, basically every society—and I say "every" with a great deal of evidence, emphasis—every society has one time or another some internal problems, and they are sorted out internally. But when internal problem is compounded and advanced and supported by external affair...factors

and by externalization of the idea crisis on our side, then it acquires a different dimension altogether. The problems of any nation—not only in Kashmir but also elsewhere in the country—of our type is understandable. We are a diverse society in religion, languages: We are out of this creating a nation-state and unity, which we're getting. Every society of our type knows it is a tortuous process, so therefore what is called alienation should also be...yes, I think, as a matter of fact, should be named as the process of completion of the consolidation of a diverse, connected nation-state.

[Tully] But how is what you're now doing—using soldiers to search houses and imposing a 13-day long curfew—going to help the people of Kashmir to become integrated into India?

[Gujral] My dear, if the vice chancellor of the university is kidnapped, and he is killed brutally; if general manager of a large factory is captured and then killed brutally; is it not duty of any government or any state to try to catch those who have done it? And it is very interesting: Those who talk in the name of human rights, they do not think that the vice chancellor also has a human right to exist? And if to catch those who are responsible for this is question of human rights, then I do not know, it isn't a very perverted concept of human rights.

[Tully] Are you then prepared to talk to Pakistan about every issue involved in the Kashmir question?

[Gujral] I am willing to talk to Pakistan on issues regarding their supporting terrorism and their intervening in our internal affairs. I do not talk my internal affairs to any external body: Kashmir is an integral part of India and our internal affair. But surely, I'm willing to talk about Pakistanis' activities in Punjab and in Kashmirpakh [as heard].

[Tully] Pakistan insists that the Kashmir issue is still in dispute and will surely want to talk about that.

[Gujral] Pakistan maybe thinks that: I do not accept it. It has been settled for all time by the Kashmir [word indistinct] itself, so therefore this is no more the issue. The issue therefore today is that whether they are or are not intervening in our internal affairs, and whether they are or they are not supporting terrorism in our territory, and whether they are or they are not supplying arms and moneys and training to terrorists and to those who also come on the smuggler's trail.

[Tully] So does that mean, then, that you are not prepared to talk to Pakistan at present?

[Gujral] I am willing to talk to Pakistan on issues of terrorism. I am not willing to talk to Pakistan or any other body on Indian problems. They are our internal problems which our parliament is competent to discuss.

Paper Derides BJP Call for Force in Pakistan

BK1904063490 Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Kashmir and BJP"]

[Text] The leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has been reiterating the party's intention, even while extending "critical support" to the National Front [NF] Government at the Centre, to play a bigger role to influence national politics. If there have been any doubts about the kind of role envisaged and the extent of support promised, these must be removed by the resolutions adopted at the BJP's national executive session in Calcutta. The party has, through the resolutions, served notice that it is set to go all out to push the Government in a direction that can be described as agitational. Since agitations cannot solve the crises in Punjab or Kashmir, its policies cannot bring communal amity at home or peace in the region. The BJP has never made a secret of its differences with the broad national consensus on the crucial issues of Kashmir and Punjab, but it has now gone farther than ever before in its formulations, regardless of the discomfiture its demands can cause the NF regime which it claims to support. While its contention that the Centre has been pursuing "soft policies" on the two issues may be shared by quite a few—illustratively its disapproval of a "consensus" turning into "drif"—it is only the communal Right that can unreservedly endorse its prescriptions for the top-priority problems. On Kashmir, it has carried its line, consisting of demands for a deletion of Article 370 of the Constitution and unqualified use of force to its utmost limit by calling upon the Government to send armed forces to Pak-occupied Kashmir to "knock out training camps and transit routes of the militants". This may mean a war. But whether Pakistan's interventions in Kashmir will lead to war cannot be decided by agitations in India. The party is unmindful of the consequences of its actions because the BJP is singlemindedly following a clearly discernible course of power pursuit. The hand of Pakistan in the Kashmir turmoil is, of course, hardly hidden , but New Delhi wants a peaceful settlement of the dispute on the basis of the Simla accord. The BJP call can only strengthen the hands of the extreme anti-India forces in Pakistan; it can only be hoped that it will serve to impress upon Islambad what kind of pressures. New Delhi has to cope with in its desire for a settlement.

Spokesman Announces New Foreign Secretary

BK1904030290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Muchkund Dubey is to be the next foreign secretary. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said the present foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh, has asked for voluntary retirement which has been accepted.

Mr. Dubey joined the Indian Foreign Services in 1957 and has held important assignments which included the

post of the UN permanent representative in Geneva and also high commissioner of India in Bangladesh.

Former Kashmir Minister Assassinated in Srinagar

BK1904081490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The former Jammu and Kashmir minister, Sheikh Abdul Jabbar, was killed by some unidentified gunmen in his home village of Lar in Srinagar District last night. Mr. Jabbar was a cabinet minister in the G.M. Shah ministry between 1984 and 86. Security forces have launched a massive search for the killers of Mr. Jabbar.

The general secretary of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mr. Kedarnath Sawhney, has condemned the killing of Mr. Jabbar and demanded stern steps to crush terrorism in the Kashmir valley. Talking to newsmen in Jammu today, he said the killing of innocent persons and political workers in the Kashmir valley should be an eye-opener to those who are still talking of a political initiative on Kashmir.

'Terrorists' Killed, Arms Recovered in Punjab

BK1904032290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, Border Security Forces seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition in a major offensive today. The seizure included 17 AK-47 assault rifles, heavy and light machine guns, one rocket launcher, six rockets, 10,000 to 12,000 rounds of ammunition, and 10 kg of explosive materials. Five terrorists were killed in two different encounters in Khem Karan sector on the India-Pakistan border.

A gang of nine terrorists tried to enter Indian territory from Pakistan near the border outposts of (Thekala) and (Valkalam) in Khem Karan sector. When the security forces challenged them, the terrorists started firing on the forces. The Border Security Force fired back and killed four terrorists in (Valkalam) and one in (Thekala).

The state governor, Mr. Nirmal Mujherjee, today visited the border areas and reviewed the situation.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Uttar Pradesh Town

BK1904032890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was clamped in Chamanganj Bajaria and some other parts of Kanpur city following incidents of violence yesterday evening. The district magistrate told our Kanpur correspondent that a PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary] constable was injured in a bomb throwing incident. Incidents of arson and stabbing have also been reported from some places. Large contingents of police and PAC personnel have been deployed in the area. The situation is reported to be tense, but under control.

Iran

Mohtashemi Appointment 'Linked to Hostages Deal'

PM1904095490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Apr 90 pp 1-2

[Amir Tahiri report: "Exclusive report for AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Mohtashemi's Return to Iran's Shura Council Linked to Hostages Deal with Hashemi-Rafsanjani"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It was announced in an official statement issued in Tehran yesterday that Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi—a senior hard-line mullah in Iran—has been appointed a member of the Shura Council [Majles]. Since the Majles has powers which entitle it to repeal laws endorsed by the House of Representatives [Majles al-nuwwab], observers see Mohtashemi's appointment as a new setback for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for the policy of "moderation" that he is pursuing at home, and for the policy of normalization with the outside world for which he calling.

But unconfirmed reports from Tehran said yesterday that Mohtashemi's appointment could be linked to a new deal concerning the Western hostages in Lebanon. According to this interpretation, Hashemi-Rafsanjani agreed to Mohtashemi's membership in the Majles in return for an "initiative" from the radicals controlling the so-called Hizballah.

Mohtashemi had openly opposed the release of any hostages, but sources close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani insist that there is a possibility of some hostages' being released. The sources have not mentioned any names. But the possibility is that the U.S. journalist Terry Anderson might be released at the start of the process of releasing the other hostages.

Mohtashemi said in a brief statement issued in Tehran yesterday that he would "consolidate Khomeyni's line," and warned against the adoption of "any lenient line which would lead Iran toward surrendering to the United States."

The hostage issue is one of three major issues on which the hardliners oppose Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The first issue is Hashemi-Rafsanjani's plan to borrow $20 billion from abroad over the next five years to revive the Iranian economy, which has been badly damaged by the war.

The second issue concerns the general amnesty, which Hashemi-Rafsanjani is said to be thinking of granting as a means to reassure the middle class individuals in Iran.

Mohtashemi's appointment by Iran's guide, 'Ali Khamene'i, has received strong support from Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Ayatollah Khomeyni. According to some reports, it was Ahmad who prevented a pro-Hashemi-Rafsanjani mullah from securing the post.

It is known that Hashemi-Rafsanjani removed Mohtashemi from the Interior Ministry in July last year within the context of his extensive efforts to remove hard-liners from sensitive government positions. But all the hard-liners who have been dismissed over the past eight months have now returned to centers of power and political influence. In February Mohtashemi entered Majles by-elections and defeated the pro-Hashemi-Rafsanjani candidate.

According to the Shura Council's internal system, Mohtashemi needed the other deputies' approval of his election before his membership of the Majles can be ratified, which is why it was balloted the day before yesterday.

An observer said in Tehran yesterday: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani is now a paper tiger." He went on to say: "He is a president in name, but the real power is in the radicals' hands."

TIMES Editor: 'All Hostages' Freed 'Very Soon'

PM1904100690 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Interview with TEHRAN TIMES Editor Irfan Parviz in Tehran by news presenter Jeremy Paxman in London on BBC 2 "Newsnight" on 18 April—recorded]

[Text] [Paxman] Well, earlier this evening I spoke by telephone to Irfan Parviz, editor of the TEHRAN TIMES, the English-language newspaper in Iran. It was back at the beginning of March that Iran's president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, appealed to Lebanese groups holding Western hostages to let them go for humanitarian reasons. I asked Mr. Parviz what caused those groups to make this announcement now.

[Parviz] You should understand one thing: This month—the entire month of Ramadan—is very important for the Muslim nations throughout the world, and now Friday is coming. That is the last Friday of this month, which is more important than other days of Ramadan, so on these occasions Muslims usually do something good to others, and this they do according to the instructions of God.

[Paxman] What's the significance of it being an American hostage?

[Parviz] This is the beginning, I can tell you—it's not, it's not the end, it's the beginning, and maybe other hostages will also be released.

[Paxman] How soon?

[Parviz] Well, I tell you that the matter is very complicated, so you can't pinpoint, you can't fix up a deadline for that. But I'm sure, I'm positive that all hostages will be released—and very soon.

[Paxman] So are we talking about days, or weeks, or months?

[Parviz] I can't say in days, or months, or weeks, but you'll see, you will see that similar good news you will receive.

[Paxman] Mr. Parviz, the implication of what you are saying is that there are negotiations going on. Is that true?

[Parviz] I didn't say that negotiations are going on, and I don't know, and as far as I know, there are no negotiations going on.

[Paxman] Why is it that Islamic Jihad has asked for the U.S. assistant secretary of state, John Kelly, to go to Damascus, then?

[Parviz] Well, I don't know about that, and I can't comment on that report, but I know that before Friday one hostage will be released.

[Paxman] They included a photograph of Jesse Turner, who was an academic at the university, didn't they? Is that the man you understand will be released?

[Parviz] Yeah, I think so, because they have already announced his name.

[Paxman] So, do you think we can expect the release of the British hostages soon, then, as well?

[Parviz] Yes, because the appeal was made for all the hostages, not for any particular country or any particular nation.

[Paxman] And it will be just a gesture without any expectation of anything in return?

[Parviz] I think so, because Iranian officials several times have made this very clear that they don't want any ransom, so this is what I know.

TEHRAN TIMES Welcomes Release of Hostages

NC1904104090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Hostages' Release Welcome]

[Text] Three hostages held in Lebanon (or elsewhere) for over two years were released by Abu-Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council yesterday.

The freedom of the hostages was undoubtedly well received around the globe. It also raises the hope that their release might hopefully be a prelude to the freedom of all hostages regardless of their nationality, religion and beliefs.

The Islamic Republic, however, has time and again announced its outright opposition to hostage taking as the country finds it contradictory with the Islamic teachings and regards it a serious violation of human relations.

Aside from the three freed hostages there are still a number of others from both Western and other countries

like Iran, held in captivity by political factions. There are also a large number of Muslims held on no legal basis at all in the Israeli jails. All these certainly by any standard meet the criterion to take on the status of hostage.

The jailed Muslims are, only because of their demand for restoration of their natural right to their motherland, hostage to the force and bullying of the Zionist state.

Their imprisonment lies on the conscience of the world community like an incubus. All those who wish to see men in peaceful co-existence are conscience-bound to defend these defenseless people.

In fact the issue of hsotage taking should come to an end for all with no discrimination. All hostages regardless of any political consideration should be freed.

Our turbulent world is now caught by gale-force winds of change blowing from every direction. Recent international developments which will inevitably entail more and more of the same nature necessitate the establishment of a new forum for dialogue and understanding; one in which nobody feels suppressed enough to embark on hostage taking to have others hear what he has to say.

The Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani meanwhile has drawn an optimistic picture hoping that hostages will soon be released. The Islamic Republic, too, itself a victim of hostage taking with a number of its diplomats still held in Lebanon by Phalangists, will use all within its might to facilitate the release of hostages. This the Islamic Republic feels dutybound to do mainly out of human and Islamic considerations.

Iran therefore is one with and backs up all those who believe in seriously working to get all the hostages, whether Western or from other countries, released as soon as possible.

Ceremonies Held in Honor of Jowshan 'Martyrs'

LD1804122890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The courage and self-sacrifice of the frigate Jowshan's brave personnel, who, on 18 April 1988, were martyred in a face-to-face battle with the U.S. aggressor in the Persian Gulf, was today commemorated. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report from Bushehr on this:

[Correspondent] The warm and azure waters of the Persian Gulf were showered with flowers this morning, in the course of ceremonies held to honor the martyrs of the immortal Jowshan frigate who were martyred in a face-to-face battle with the U.S. aggressor on 18 April 1988. [passage omitted]

The ceremonies were attended by the commander of the second zone of the Navy and esteemed families of the martyrs of Jowshan frigate. The offspring of the martyrs and the commanders of the marine second zone, using sea and air units, showered the azure waters of the Persian Gulf in memory of these dear epic-making men. The brave personnel of the Navy, in these ceremonies, declared their readiness to protect and safeguard the warm waters of the Persian Gulf under the leadership of the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

On the basis of this report, due to this very occasion a special ceremony—attended by the commanders and personnel of the Navy's second zone—was held in the Mahdi mosque of the Seventh Azar Base of Bushehr, honoring the memory of the self-sacrifices and brave deeds of these dear martyrs.

[Signed] Central News Unit—Bushehr

British Firm Allegedly Sold Chemicals to Iraq

LD1804114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Despite the propaganda of the British press and media on the Iraqi regime's stockpile and deployment of chemical weapons, during the past two months large quantities of British chemical substances have been sold to Iraq. According to a report of the central news unit, one of the companies manufacturing chemical substances in Britain announced on Monday: During the past few months several Iraqi officials have discussed the purchase of chemical substances with officials of this company. While expressing concern for this issue, he pointed out that during the past two months Iraq has bought considerable quantities of chemical substances from this British company.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Chairs Cabinet Meeting

LD1804190490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The cabinet, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, held a meeting this evening. In the beginning of the meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid tribute to the International Jerusalem Day, a day of resistance of the Islamic ummah against the Zionist aggression. He said: The government officials, shoulder to shoulder with the country's martyr-nurturing ummah, will participate in the Jerusalem Day ceremonies.

As the meeting progressed, a report on the research about the transfer of the country's political and administrative center from Tehran to other parts of the country, which was produced by Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, was reviewed and its general principals were approved by the cabinet.

The same report says in the same session a check for 5,137,000 rials, donations of Education Ministry officials and students from all over the country for students and officials involved in education in the occupied Palestine, was submitted to the president.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Jerusalem Day

NC1904063090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] On the eve of International Jerusalem Day, our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement observing International Jerusalem Day and condemning the daily increasing crimes perpetrated by world arrogance and the Zionists against the oppressed Palestinian nation.

The statement says, in part: World Muslims are observing International Jerusalem Day this year at a time when dear Jerusalem, which has been separated from its biggest, strongest, and most consistent mentor, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, is witnessing various plots by arrogance aimed at destroying the rights of the Muslims in Palestine. It is also witnessing the further revelation of the nature of the false advocates of support for the Palestinian nation.

The implementation of the oppressive plans by world arrogance in a bid to stabilize the illegal and shaky position of the Zionist regime in the territories that have been taken from the Muslims on the one hand, and the compromising and reactionary acts by some so-called Palestinian leaders on the other, have made the usurpers of Jerusalem more impudent in intensifying their crimes. This is at a time when, instead of fighting against this impudence, some Arab governments have practically joined the disgraceful Camp David pact.

The statement continues: After a series of plots to crush the just uprising of the Palestinian people, world arrogance has now hatched the plan for the immigration of Jews to occupied Palestine—a plan which is more complicated and more dangerous than former plots. If this plan is implemented, the Muslims of Palestine and the region will face serious problems. Therefore, it is necessary for the world Muslims, and especially the heroic Palestinian nation, to expand their struggles reveal the nature of the plans, and show that they will not tolerate the influx of Jews emigrating from other parts of the world to Islamic territories, which is aimed at altering the demographic picture and at dominating other parts of Palestine, and that they will never be prepared to give up even a small part of their ancestral land.

Our Foreign Ministry's statement points out: By leaning on the directives of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Muslims of the world, the Islamic Republic of Iran is observing International Jerusalem Day, reiterating its full support for the just struggles of the Muslim Palestinian nation which are aimed at liberating Palestine from the domination of the usurping Zionists. It considers that the only way to free dear Jerusalem—the second qebleh [reference to praying toward Mecca] of the Muslims of the world—and Islamic Palestine from the clutches of the occupying Zionists is to rely on inspiration from Islamic teachings and on the power of faith and fiery weapons. It announces that compromise with the occupiers of Jerusalem will only result in bondage and hardship.

Karrubi Urges Participation on Jerusalem Day

LD1804121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In today's open session of the Majles, the Majles speaker urged the people to extensively participate in nationwide rallies marking International Jerusalem Day. Our correspondent reports about the proceedings of today's open session.

[Correspondent] In this morning's open session of the Majles, which was chaired by Mr Karrubi, the Majles speaker made some remarks in which he expressed his condolences on the occasion of martyrdom of the lord of the pious, His Holiness 'Ali—may peace be upon him. He also stressed the importance of world Muslims supporting the Islamic movement of Palestine, while seeking the commemoration of International Jerusalem Day in the most splendid fashion. While analyzing the support given by Islamic revolution to the people of Palestine, and the choice of the last Friday of the blessed Ramadan as Jerusalem Day, Mr. Karrubi stated: There are conspiracies on the way these days, aimed at crushing the Palestine people's movement. Among such conspiracies one can mention the anti-humanitarian and terrorist actions of Zionists, and the support given by the so-called proponents of human rights to such a criminal and aggressive phenomenon. He added: Today, at the height of support for the Zionists, we witness the migration of Jews from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine. Such a process has caused greater resistance among the Palestinian people, while it has intensified the criminal acts of the Zionist regime. With the support of the West and America, and also with the silence of regional reactionaries, the rights of the oppressed people of that region are being disregarded more than ever.

The Majles speaker continued by inviting the people to take part in Jerusalem Day rallies on Friday [20 April], and thereby protest against the crimes of Zionism, as well as once again declaring their support for the oppressed people of Palestine. Further he pointed to the day of 18 April, the Army day, and the continuation of conspiracies against Islamic revolution. He then stressed the need to strengthen the spirit of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Shahbazi Delivers Armed Forces Day Message

LD1804111390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Good day to the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We will begin this special program on the occasion of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces Day by glorifying the memories of the zealous epics of the three arms of Islam's Armed Forces—ground, air, and sea—and by honoring 18

April—Unity Day between the Armed Forces and the nation, and by hoping for the continuation of this unity and sympathy.

Our Armed Forces were visible, memorable, and impressive in all aspects of the Islamic revolution of Iran. These manifestations are not solely confined to the Armed Forces—today, society as a whole is overflowing with images and manifestations of great movement and activities of our people. But the issue which is important as regards the Armed Forces is that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, just as it is expected from a force that is revolutionary and is ideologically committed, has stood beside the people in all the stages of the revolution. And of course there were many who wished that that this would not be the case and they may still wish that they can break the unity between the people and the Armed Forces. But during the length of all the sensitive periods of the revolution, the Army—with its special awareness and its revolutionary consciousness—was able to foil all these conspiracies and behave in ways which were the opposite to what the enemy wanted. This is in accordance with what has been said by the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Ayatollah Khamene'i.

From the start of the victory of the Islamic revolution up to now the Armed Forces has gone through many ups and downs as well as many history-making tests and trials while relying on its power, faith, and steadfastness and the assistance of the great Iranian nation. And today, experienced and steadfast, it is standing alongside the brave and revolutionary people of Iran, it is ready to foil every kind of aggression and expansionism on the part of the enemies of the revolution. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces has not found it easy to achieve what it has achieved thus far, and the pride and glory of the Armed Forces have not been gained that easily. The three arms of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, from the early days of the victory of the Islamic Republic—in view of their sensitive and essential role in preserving the territorial integrity and safeguarding the borders of the Islamic revolution—were constantly the target of attacks from internal and external enemies, and the sworn enemies of the Islamic revolution and Iran have pointed their arrows toward the Armed Forces aiming to dismember the country and overthrow the revolution. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces Day, we draw your attention to the message of Brigadier-General 'Ali Shahbazi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Begin Shahbazi recording] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Greetings to the holy imam of the age—may our souls be sacrificed to him—and salutations to the pure souls of the martyrs and all true and genuine followers of Islam, notably, his grace, Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with his deeds—and expressing respects to the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution and respected commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow last; and condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom of the lord of the pious, the holy lord of the faithful, 'Ali—may God's peace be upon him. While wishing that the prayers and supplications of you, Muslim ummah, may be accepted, I am taking this opportunity to honor 18 April—the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces Day—which is a reminder of the unforgettable, deep, and heartfelt love of the brave and sincere children of Islam's army toward the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I congratulate you, martyr-nutryring ummah who have always been the supporters and cause of the survival of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Today, when the great leader and founder of the Islamic Republic is not in our midst, without doubt, the proud and epic-making Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran—following the aspirations of their late leader and under the command of the eminent leader and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his shadow extend—who, following our dear and noble imam has always paid particular attention toward the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran—just as in the past, is, and will always be ready to carry out its duties and momentous mission to protect the land, air, and sea borders of the Islamic homeland. The brave men of the Armed Forces of Islam, while benefiting from the valuable experiences of the holy defense, grasp and understand very well the sensitive nature of the current juncture in the glorious history of the Islamic revolution. They are continuing their holy struggle with firm resolve to elevate their glory and to be combat-ready in all the ranks, including training, exercise, and maneuvers, self-sufficiency, repair, and maintenance, morale, and discipline, with alertness and continuous hard work.

The strong self-sacrificers of the Armed Forces of Islam are well aware that the preservation of defensive preparedness and the strengthening of the Armed Forces is not a matter that is confined to present times [of neither peace nor war] but that this preparedness and steadfastness should continue unstintly during the period of peace too, since the enemies are always dreaming of the collapse of the world of Islam and at its head, the Islamic revolution of Iran. The only agent that prevents the satanic powers from carrying out their sinister and aggressive objectives is an Islamic, powerful and capable Armed Forces. And the several years of experience of the holy defense and also the realities of today's world, has taught this important and destiny-making lesson to our nation that there exists no guarantee more valuable than faith in God to protect the borders of faith, honor, and glory of the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion, while honoring again the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces Day, I renew on the part of each of the noble servants of Islam's Armed Forces, the longstanding, deep, and firm pledge of the three arms of the Armed Forces with the eminent, great leader and

respected commander-in-chief of the armed forces and the Muslim nation of Iran. Good day and God's mercy and blessing be upon you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Deputy Commander of the Navy Appointed

LD1804191890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] On the proposal of Commodore Shamkhani, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, endorse by the honorable leader, 'Abbas Mohtaj has been appointed to the post of deputy commander of the Navy.

Paper Blames Saudi Arabia for Oil Price Slump

LD1804154790 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—An Iranian daily Wednesday [18 April] urged the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to defend its rights, resists conspiracies and seek ways to stand against its "weak and wayward" members. The Persian daily 'ABRAR' referred to the recent sharp decline in the world oil prices, and termed it "a tactic, schemed by the U.S. and other major industrialized states" which "the clients of world imperialism in the Persian Gulf are making it realize."

"If the current downward trend continues, it will certainly face OPEC with a new crisis," said the daily.

On reasons behind the oil price decline over the past three weeks, the paper labelled Saudi Arabia as the "main culprit", at whose behest, the Persian Gulf states of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have exceeded their production quotas, thus breaching the OPEC ceiling. The current production ceiling of the 13-member organisation is set at 22 million barrels per day (bpd) but in actual terms it has soared up to 24 bpd since early this month, the paper noted.

Believing that increase in oil prices in the next decade "is unavoidable as world crude resources deplete," the editorial said "that is why the major oil-consuming countries are feverishly plotting to smash the OPEC union and inflict blows on the cartel."

It called on the organization to review its present programmes as well as its future plans since "billions of dollars in income of its members is at stake."

Nepal

Premier-Designate Submits Cabinet Nominees

BK1804124490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 18 Apr 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 18 (AFP)—Nepalese opposition leader Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, who has been tipped as the next prime minister, will also hold the key foreign, defence and Royal Palace affairs portfolios in his interim government, a Nepali Congress source said Wednesday [18 April]. Mr. Bhattarai, acting president of the opposition Nepali Congress Party, is expected to be sworn in as prime minister by the king early Thursday [19 April] following an agreement reached with the monarch of this Himalayan kingdom late Tuesday [17 April].

The talks came after two months of bloody pro-democracy protests which culminated Monday [16 April] when the king called for an opposition-led coalition government and announced the dissolution of the nation's 30-year-old partyless panchayat system. Opposition sources said the pro-democracy campaign had cost the lives of between 400 and 500 people.

The new government will pave the way for general elections to be held within a year, said Mr. Bhattarai, who served as speaker of Nepal's Parliament in 1959-1960.

The new government is to be composed of 11 ministers, with four from the centrist Nepali Congress, three from the United Leftist Front (ULF), two independents and two ministers nominated by the king. Mr. Bhattarai, 65, formally submitted Wednesday to King Birendra the list of nine ministers, including the names of two human right activists recently released from jail, whom he had nominated to serve in his coalition government.

King Birendra has not yet nominated the two persons he will choose to join the coalition government under an agreement reached in the talks late Tuesday between the king, Mr. Bhattarai and Nepali Congress leader Ganesh Man Singh. But the Nepali Congress source said the two names put forth by the king were expected to be Yedu Nath Khanal, a former foreign minister and ambassador to the United States, and Prodhyumna Lal Rajbhandari, former ambassador to West Germany.

The source said the two human rights activists, Mathura Prasad Shrestha and Devendra Raj Pandey, had been chosen to serve as the two independents in the cabinet. Both men were released from jail on April 9 following their arrest on March 16 for speaking at a symposium on Nepal's political crisis.

Mr. Pandey, vice chairman of the Human Rights Organization of Nepal and a former finance secretary, will handle the finance portfolio. Dr. Shrestha, chairman of a left-wing human rights group, will head up health services, the Nepali Congress Party source said.

The three ministers Mr. Bhattarai proposed from the ULF were Sahana Pradhan, chairperson of the left-wing coalition who was nominated to head the commerce and industry portfolio, Nilamber Acharya, at justice and tourism, and Jhala Nath Khanal, at agriculture, forestry and land reform.

The three ministers proposed from the centrist Nepali Congress were Yog Prasad Upadhyaya, at the home and communications portfolio, Marshal Julum Shakya, at public works and transport, and Mahendra Narayan Nidhi, at water resources and general administration. Mr. Nidhi was the deputy speaker in the country's first Parliament, which was dissolved by late King Mahendra in December 1960 to clear the way for the panchayat system.

Mr. Bhattarai, who will hold the top post as well as the foreign, defense and Royal Palace affairs portfolio, will be the fourth Nepali Congress official to sit in the cabinet. Under the accord reached Tuesday, the proposed cabinet ministers are expected to receive the king's prompt approval and to be sworn in by Mr. Bhattarai Thursday, opposition sources said.

Mr. Bhattarai said Tuesday that King Birendra had assured the opposition leaders of his cooperation and said that the monarch's two nominees would "never impede the work that we have undertaken." He said his government's "foremost duty will be to redress the grievances of the families of those martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for democracy in Nepal."

Premier-Designate Calls for Japan's Support

OW1804150690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1403 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Katmandu, April 18 KYODO—Nepalese Prime Minister-designate Krishna Prasad Bhattarai said Wednesday [18 April] his country needs greater support from Japan to promote democracy and help reconstruct its economy. Bhattarai, who is to be sworn in as prime minister Thursday [19 April], told KYODO that Nepal needs to learn much from Japan about democracy.

He said the Nepalese economy faces a crisis and urged support from other countries, particularly from Japan. "Democratic Japan was one of the largest donors to Nepal," in the past, he said. Bhattarai said he hopes Japan will help share some of its industrial technology. He said he would welcome Japanese investments. Nepal is very poor in manpower, he said.

The premier-designate said one of the important tasks for his cabinet, to be formed shortly, will be to improve relations with India, which have been worsened since last year over the revision of a bilateral trade pact. India had stopped oil exports to Nepal.

Nepal, flanked by India and China, has taken a policy of nonalliance and neutrality but had kept close economic ties with India.

He said Nepal and India, a democratic nation, are much alike, and suggested his country would keep distance between it and Communist China.

Chand Assures New Government of Cooperation

BK1904003690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1946 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 18 (AFP)—Out-going Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand said here Wednesday [18 April] he and his colleagues would give their full cooperation to the newly formed council of ministers in its work to consolidate democracy and strengthen national unity. Mr. Chand said in a statement welcomed the new council of ministers headed by Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and extended his best wishes to it.

"At present a challenging responsibility has come upon us. We have to make the country prosperous by maintaining stability, law and order through the exercise of democratic values, norms and ideals," Mr. Chand said, adding that "all have felt that the new democratic environment has not only endowed them with rights but also with important responsibilities and duties. "Finding solutions to all problems through dialogue by immediately checking murder and damage of public property will be in the interest of Nepal and the Nepalese," he added.

Referring to talks between his government and the political opposition, he said they were held in a very cordial atmosphere last Monday [16 April] and the discussions with opposition leaders were held in an open and frank manner. He also noted "no side made any effort to prolong or stall the talks." Mr. Chand expressed his condolence and sympathy for all those who lost their lives or were injured or suffered in any other way during the recent wave of pro-democracy demonstrations.

Mr. Chand was appointed by King Birendra on April 6 to head an interim government of four ministers following the dismissal marich Man Singh Shrestha's four-year-old government. He initiated a dialogue with the political opposition to defuse the political crisis caused by a nationwide series of protests organised jointly by the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front, an alliance of seven socialist parties.

King Birendra Appoints Bhattarai as Premier

BK1904022890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0219 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 19 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal has appointed opposition leader Krishna Prasad Bhattarai as premier of the new coalition government, Radio Nepal announced, saying the government is to prepare elections quickly. The king also formally accepted the resignation of Lokendra Bahadur Chand, whose anticipated resignation as prime minister was announced Monday [16 April], according to a royal palace communique read over the state-run radio. The main purpose of the new government would be to conduct a fresh election as early as possible, it said.

New Cabinet List Published

BK1904034290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0332 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 19 (AFP)—The list of ministers and their portfolios in Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's coalition government follows:

1. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai: Foreign, Defence and Royal Palace Affairs

2. Sahana Pradhan: Commerce and Industry

3. Keshar Jung Rayamajhi: Education, Culture and General Administration

4. Achyut Raj Regmi: Housing and Physical Development

5. Mahendra Narayan Nidhi: Water Resources and Local Development

6. Yog Prasad Upadhyaya: Home and Communications, Tourism

7. Nilambar Acharya: Law and Justice, Social Welfare

8. Marshal Julum Shakya: Public Works and Transport and Supply

9. Jhala Nath Khanal: Agriculture, Land Reform, Forest and Soil Conservation

10. Devendra Raj Pandey: Finance

11. Mathura Prasad Shrestha: Health Services

Pakistan

India Allegedly Massing Troops Along Border

BK1904131790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT 19 Apr 90

[By Sami Zubieri]

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, April 19 (AFP)—India has massed thousands of troops along the Pakistan border, a Pakistani general said here Thursday [19 April] as tensions escalated over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Lieutenant General Alam Jan Mahsud, corps commander of the Lahore garrison, made the charge in a press briefing Thursday on the military situation along the border, adding that at least five Indian brigades have been moved from peacetime locations. The briefing took place amid reports that Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan would hold talks, expected Tuesday [24 April] or Wednesday [25 April], on the Kashmir issue with his Indian counterpart, Inder Kumar Gujral, during a visit to New York for a special U.N. General Assembly session on the world economy.

The lieutenant general said Indian troops have been massed almost the full length of the border, from Jammu in the troubled Ka
Punjab and south shmir State, along the northern Sind Province. to Rajasthan bordering Pakistan's

In India a provinci
April] reported a ial newspaper on Wednesday [18 armoured troops acr "massive buildup" of Pakistani Indian State of Punj oss from three areas of the northern denied by Islamaba ab. It said in an unconfirmed report ening troop concentr d that Pakistan was also strength- State. The respected rations near the border in Rajasthan Army had begun m provincial daily also said the Indian daspur sector, to cou obilising, particularly in the Gurtical manoeuvering." unter what it called Pakistan's "tac-

Lt. Gen. Mahsud sa
moving its troops. "id Thursday that Pakistan was not sary alarm, but at the We do not want to create unnecesto take place." e same time we do not want surprises

The Indian prime m
Wednesday with fo inister again charged Islamabad on Punjab States, where menting trouble in Kashmir and aratists are waging ve anti-Indian Muslim and Sikh sepour unity and integ iolent campaigns. "We shall defend wanath Pratap Sing rity at any cost," he warned. Vishpsychologically prep h last week asked the nation to be another armed confl pared for war, triggering fears of lict over Kashmir.

Both India and Pak
the subject of two istan claim ownership of Kashmir, since 1947. of the three wars they have fought

Lt. Gen. Mahsud sa
Punjab plains inclu aid the new deployment across the out positions with des infantry and armour, pointing bomb-proof underg the help of charts and maps in a quarters. Lt. Gen. round operations room at his headwere within 30 to 40 Mahsud said the fresh Indian units points along the 2,00 kilometers (20 to 25 miles) at some 00-kilometer (1,200-mile) border.

Asked whether India
"India will not get ria were preparing for a war, he said, But he noted that thd of its political problem militarily." the context of Mr. e alleged troop movement, taken in ous." V.P. Singh's warnings, "is danger-

"I have to take cogn
oblivious," he said. nizance of the situation. I cannot be to defend ourselves." "We are taking necessary measures "

On Wednesday, Air
Pakistani fighter pilo Chief Marshal Hakimullah urged "high-key combat pots and weapons controllers to assure threats to the countr reparedness in view of the mounting new graduates at a y's security" posed by India. He told have no option but combat commanders' school, "We need arises, deliver t to strive for the best, and when the and effectiveness t the punch with the speed, efficiency Force." hat are the hallmarks of our Air

The air chief's stat
chief, General Mirz ement came as the Pakistan Army za Aslam Beg, was visiting forward

areas along Pakistan's border with India for the second day in a row. Gen. Beg has also ordered preparedness.

Lt. Gen. Mahsud said Pakistan was not cowed by the Indian Army's numerical superiority, adding, "very often better-led armies overcome larger forces."

He strongly denied Pakistani support for the Sikh independence movement in the Indian Punjab, saying of Indian barbed wire fencing along the border that "even a rabbit cannot infiltrate without their knowledge." Pakistan, he added, should not be blamed for the internal problems of "poor giant India."

"But I think sense will prevail and the Indians will reassess their position in this game," he said, calling on "liberals and intellectuals in India to speak out" against a third war over Kashmir.

Army Chief Visits Forward Positions 18 Apr

BK1804160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg visited forward positions in Lahore and Kasur today and met with the soldiers. He expressed satisfaction at the steps taken to be always alert and ready.

Later, General Mirza Aslam Beg attended a briefing at the corps headquarters in Lahore on operational plans and logistics.

Paper Says India 'Burying Its Head' in Kashmir

BK1904070790 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Apr 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Unwarranted Bellicosity"]

[Text] Tuesday's [10 April] warning by Indian Prime Minister to Pakistan is one of the most serious ever hurled at this country in recent years. Speaking in the Lok Sabha (parliament), Mr. V.P. Singh breathed fire, threatened to "inflict a very heavy cost on Pakistan" if war broke out, and boastfully claimed that India had "the capability to inflict that cost." The basis of this bellicose outpouring is Mr. Singh's righteous perception of Pakistan's alleged designs on "Indian territory" and its "interference" in the current stir in occupied Kashmir. The Indian Prime Minister alleged that Pakistan had continued to foment trouble in the Valley with the aim of achieving its "territorial goals" without provoking a full-blown conflict and "without paying the price of a war". He made it plain that India would see to it that there was no getting away with a "limited intervention", or avoiding an armed conflict and that "we are not going to stop till we have achieved our objectives". Seen in its proper perspective, Mr. Singh's jingoistic utterances constitute an admission of his government's total failure to arrest the rapidly deteriorating situation in Kashmir. The Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom has gained irresistible force and momentum, normal life has come to a halt, and only brute force holds the people down. All this has prompted Mr. George Fernandes, Mr. Singh's Minister for Kashmir, to declare that few in India had any idea of what the situation was like in the Valley. Obviously, the Indian Prime Minister could not be one of them, but surely the solution he has come up with—threatening Pakistan with war—is hardly a moral or pragmatic response to the revolt in Kashmir.

The issue is not one of Pakistan's alleged interference in the occupied areas but one of freedom of the people of Kashmir. Kashmir is not Indian territory. According to the United Nations, and in terms of the solemn agreements between Pakistan and India, Jammu and Kashmir is a disputted territory. If the current uprising in the Valley has any message for India and the world, it is this, that the people of Kashmir do not consider themselves Indians and for that reason they are paying in blood and tears the price for asserting their separate Kashmiri identity. Does Kashmir become Indian territory simply because it is under India's military jackboot? Once India used to cite the holding of several elections in the disputed territory to claim popular sanction for the fact of India's forcible annexation of the once princely state. The cruel irony is that a succession of fraudulent "elections" has now rendered it impossible for India even to use this supposed trump card. The last elections were boycotted by an overwhelming majority, and the man who came to power through that fraudulent exercise—Dr. Farooq Abdullah—has long been ditched by New Delhi for having failed to deliver the goods. It is this aspect of the volatile Kashmir situation that deserves Mr Singh's attention. Threatening Pakistan with an armed conflict will not help India win the Kashmiris over politically. Neither will it convince world opinion that Kashmiris have risen in revolt because of Pakistan's instigation.

This country does not seek war. But should India choose to inflict one, Pakistan will not be found wanting in an adequate response to such a challenge. A yet another round of conflict between Pakistan and India will be a great tragedy for South Asia. Briefly, the aggressor will have to pay a heavy price, too. Let common sense prevail, first and foremost in New Delhi—cut off as it seems from hard realities in the Valley. A solution to the problem of Kashmir lies in Kashmir and not in Pakistan. There is, clearly, no other solution except that India should stop burying its head in the sand and start seeing things in a more rational perspective. The nub of the problem in Kashmir is the people's will to freedom and dignity.

Interior Minister Comments on Kashmir Situation

PM1904101590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 90 pp 1-2

[Zaki Shihab report]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Pakistani Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has announced

Government Rejects Prabhakaran Statement

BK1904104590 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 6 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Colombo, 6 Apr—The Sri Lankan Government has rejected the statement of the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], Prabhakaran, that the only reason the LTTE does not lay down its arms is that it has protect the Tamils.

Prabhkaran has been hiding in the Vavuniya jungles for the past two and a half years and came out after the total withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force. He said: The only reason we do not surrender our arms is with a view to protect the Tamils. We would not even hesitate to confront the Sri Lankan Army, if our demands are not met.

The Sri Lankan Government has rejected Prabhakaran's statement. Yesterday, it discussed the views expressed by Prabhakaran. Later, the minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, told newsmen:

The government is seriously considering the views expressed by Prabhakaran. He said the only reason the LTTE does not lay down its arms is to protect the Tamils. But it is the Sri Lankan Government which is giving protection to the Tamils. It is not possible to have separate rules in different parts of the country. Talks are being held with the LTTE. But the LTTE is acting very slowly. We are not able to make any quick decisions. We do not want to force them. We are not for dissolving the Tamil provincial council. President Premadasa wants to dealt with the matter according to the Constitution.

When asked about the responsibility claimed by the LTTE in the assassination of Amirthalingam, the leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, Wijeratne said as the LTTE itself has claimed responsibility, it should be investigated. But police inquiry reports say that the LTTE is not involved in the assassination of Amirthalingam.

The opposition leaders in Sri Lanka are critical of the police report saying that it is ridiculous to note that the report has dismissed the involvement of the LTTE in the assassination of Amrithalingam, whereas the LTTE itself has owned up to responsibility for the assassination.